Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-050
Wednesday
14 March 1990

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FBIS-NES-90-050 *14 March 1990*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Condemns U.S. Embargo on Libya

LD1303200490 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1859 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Tunis, 13 Mar (KUNA)—The Arab League Council stressed the need to intensify U.S. political and media efforts to prevent the endorsement of a bill submitted to the U.S. Congress on the use of chemical weapons.

In a statement released after the conclusion of today's session, the Council called for contacts to be followed up at the international level to explain the Arab position on chemical weapons.

The Council condemned the extension of the U.S. economic embargo against the Libyan Jamahiriyah and U.S. threats against it, and stressed its solidarity with Libya. The Council urges the United States to respect international conventions, to lift the economic embargo on Libya, and to stop threatening it.

In its statement, the Council expressed its concern over the arms cooperation between Iran and the Zionist entity which encompasses military and trade fields, while Iraq is seeking to establish a just and comprehensive peace with Iran.

The Council assigned the Arab group at the United Nations in New York to contact the Latin American group with a view to holding regular joint meetings and planning annual ministerial meetings between the two sides on the periphery of UN General Assembly meetings.

The Council will resume its session this evening to complete its debate on the items on the agenda.

Adopts Measures on Immigration Issue

LD1303064690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2230 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Tunis, 12 Mar (SPA)—The Arab League Council called for holding an Arab summit as soon as possible to discuss the issue of the immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and its negative effects on the rights of the Palestinian people.

A press statement issued today by the Council's 93d session said that the council adopted a number of urgent measures on this subject, including speeding up implementation of the program of visits to be paid by the Ministerial Committee to the capitals of the permanent members of the UN Security Council and the EEC to explain the dangers threatening the peace and rights of the Palestinian people in their land, in addition to increasing the contacts calling for the fulfillment of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The statement pointed out that these measures were adopted after the Arab League Council got acquainted with the memorandum and report submitted by the General Secretariat on this subject, and also the recommendation of the Political Committee and the resolutions of the Arab ministerial committee for supporting the uprising, which met in Tunis on 5 February 1990.

The press statement added that the Arab League Council addressed salutations of consideration to the Palestinian uprising and stressed the necessity to continue support for it considering that it was part of Arab security.

With regard to the financial situation of the UNRWA, United Nations Relief and Works Agency, the Council reiterated its emphasis on making the necessary contacts to urge the friendly states to increase their donations to the agency and convince the United States to review its decision to reduce its contributions to the budget of the agency.

The council, on the other hand, adopted the recommendations which came in the report of the conference on the affairs of Palestinians in its 44th session which was held in Tunis last January. The Arab ministerial committee for the support of the uprising had met on the sidelines of the Arab League Council and adopted a program confined to making moves in the international arena in order to support the unified Arab stance on the issue of the emigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine and to stress the need to secure all the national rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with the proclamation of human rights, international charters, and the fourth Geneva Convention of 1948.

The committee also set out a program for its moves in the Arab arena to provide increased support for the Palestinian uprising in implementing the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences in Algiers and Casablanca.

Al-Shar' Meets With PLO's 'Arafat in Tunis

JN1203185790 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met in Tunis today with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. They discussed Arab and Palestinian developments.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Hurani Insists on Jerusalem Representation

PM1303163290 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 7 Mar 90 p 1

[Muhammad Mahjub report: "Hurani Tells 'UKAZ: PLO Will Never Allow Exclusion of Jerusalem Representatives From Dialogue"]

[Text] Tunis (by telephone)—In reply to a question about the PLO's response to the position adopted by Israel's Likud which is preventing a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, a Palestinian official has told 'UKAZ that the PLO is waiting to be officially informed of the Israeli Government's decision before stating its own position.

U.S. President George Bush has stated that his country's position on Jerusalem "has not changed."

In his statement to 'UKAZ, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani said that Jerusalem is an integral part of occupied Palestinian territory, that Jerusalem representatives should be first in any Palestinian delegation formed by the PLO, and that any Israeli or non-Israeli position contrary to that would be categorically rejected by the PLO. Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat yesterday emphasized that there is no alternative to the PLO in any Middle East peace talks.

Hurani stressed that the PLO is determined to form its own delegation to the proposed dialogue and announce the delegation's link to the PLO. He said any attempt to disguise the PLO's role would fool no one and would be unacceptable to the PLO. He added: The U.S. Administration should make up its mind about the Israeli Government and its position regarding the role of the PLO in forming and announcing the delegation.

'Arafat Comments on Dangers of Jewish Immigration

JN1303171690 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 12 Mar 90 pp 1, 30

[By Fathi al-Barqawi from Tunis]

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has reaffirmed that Soviet Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine is aimed against the entire Arab nation. He said the intifadah is not defending Palestine only, but the entire Arab nation. He urged the Arabs—peoples and governments—to support the Palestinian people's struggle. In a statement to AL-ANBA', 'Arafat noted Israel's ambitions and plans to establish a Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates.

The Palestinian leader pointed to the the mounting Arab responsibility to face the increasing Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine, especially as Israeli repression against the Palestinian people's intifadah has not ceased for one moment. He recalled the massacres that took place in Arab Jerusalem and its suburbs and in Qabatiyah and Bayt Furik the day before yesterday; these areas were stormed by 2,000 Israeli paratroopers using helicopters. He said eight Palestinians were martyred and over 250 injured during the operation.

Asked by AL-ANBA' whether the Arab states are now required to offer more aid to the Palestinian intifadah, 'Arafat said: Definitely. I tell the Arab leaders they must shoulder their responsibilities. They must show a great deal of forbearance. The Palestinian people's blood is shed daily in the occupied Palestinian territories, not only defending Palestinian territories. The intifadah is not defending Palestine only. With respect to the waves of Jewish immigrants, the intifadah is defending the entire Arab nation. He said: I urge all Arab officials, leaders, and citizens to support the Palestinian people in their intifadah and struggle.

When asked what guarantees the Arab summit—if convened—will demand from the major powers, 'Arafat said Arab states will be invited to take part in the debates of the UN Security Council to be convened on 14 March to discuss Jewish immigration. He urged Arab attendance at the highest level in order to confront this sweeping danger.

He explained that the Arab states will demand clear and explicit resolutions. If the United States tries to use the veto again as it did six times last year, we will go to the UN General Assembly to ask for a resolution under the article "unity for the sake of peace," which was used in 1961 concerning the Congo during the era of Patrice Lumumba. This article was also used by the United States itself in Korea. It has also been used on other questions.

When asked what the PLO expects from the nine-member committee of the Nonaligned Movement summit, 'Arafat said immigration does not pose a threat to the Palestinian people only, but to the entire Arab nation. He said the influx of Jews is being supported by international powers, primarily the United States. This means that 3 million Jews will immigrate by the end of this century to establish the Greater Israel declared by the Zionist leaders, he said.

Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] produced a map depicted on an Israeli coin exposing Israeli ambitions. The map includes all of Jordan and Lebanon, two-thirds of Syria, one-third of Saudi Arabia as far as al-Madinah, the whole of Sinai, and three-quarters of Iraq. This is in implementation of the Zionist dream of establishing a state "from the Nile to the Euphrates."

The Palestinian leader explained that the immigration is not aimed against the Palestinian people alone, but against the entire Arab nation. He added that the immigration is aimed at thwarting all peace moves sought by the PLO through the Palestinian peace initiative—which became an Arab initiative after being adopted by the Arab summit in Casablanca and the ninth Nonaligned summit.

'Arafat addressed an appeal to all world strugglers, to all peace-loving states, to all leaders of Arab, Islamic, and nonaligned states, to the Scandinavian and socialist states, including the Soviet Union and China, and to Japan to oppose the overwhelming danger posed to the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

'Arafat asked: If the Jews have the right to return 3,000 years later, do not the Palestinians have the same right in accordance with UN Resolution 194 providing for the Palestinians' right to return to their homeland or to be compensated?

Commentary Examines Israeli Cabinet Differences

JN1303211090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1954 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: Finally, the Zionist Labor Party has left the coalition government after Likud's Shamir took the decision against Labor's Peres. In a dramatic way, Shamir expelled Shim'on Peres from government today. This caused the Labor Party ministers to resign and bring the coalition government to an end.

We have said on more than one occasion that Israeli intransigence and delay in responding to the U.S. proposals, and other motives and reasons, express a deep crisis inside the Israeli Government and confirm the inability of the Israeli decisionmakers to deal with the political issue in a logical and rational manner, particularly at times when Israel is facing its historic dilemma. At this stage, Israel is not only facing this dilemma, but it has been pushed into a narrow corner. The intifadah, of course, is the main reason for this situation.

Anyway, this matter is now confirmed, having become very clear with the fall of the coalition government in the enemy's entity. However, the credibility of the violent and dramatic manner in which this fall came about has to be questioned. The question that must be asked here is why did Likud's Shamir help Labor's Peres to implement his threat to withdraw from the government by pushing him out of the government?

This move shows that the differences were staged one way or another. What gives credence to this possibility is the absence of a direct U.S. reaction, not to the fall of the coalition government, but to the failure of the Israeli inner cabinet to reach an agreement on responding to U.S. proposals for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in (?Cairo).

The U.S. Department of State spokeswoman [words indistinct]. She added: The United States knows what to do when it receives the answer.

This statement gives some sort of a green light to pushing the Israeli Government's crisis to its final limits, and this is what Shamir, not Peres, has done; otherwise, how can one understand the U.S. spokeswoman's statement that her administration is still waiting for a response, when the response actually came in the form of the failure to reach a clear agreement inside the coalition government?

In any case, the next few days will give a very clear picture about the Israeli internal dispute—how deep is it? What are its consequences, and where will they lead?

PFLP Issues Statement, Criticizes 'Concessions'

JN1303184890 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] issued a statement and distributed it in Palestinian cities today. In the statement, the PFLP calls for expediting the convocation of the first session of a new Palestine National Council [PNC], the seventh PNC, on the basis that the term of the previous PNC that began in 1983 has ended since the PLO's bylaws and the interpretations of the legal committee on this issue stipulate that the PNC's term in office is three years.

The PFLP justified its call by the need to carry out a comprehensive critical review of the policy of major gratuitous political concessions that the leadership with the upper hand within the PLO has adopted.

The PFLP said that one reason for holding this session is the need to protect the intifadah politically, and to work to perpetuate, entrench, and escalate it until it attains its national objectives. This calls for exposing U.S.-Zionist political maneuvers, not to mention those of their Arab brokers.

Algeria

No Explanation for 'Violent Explosion' Near Oran

LD1203095690 Paris Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] What happened exactly, in western Algeria, in the Oran region yesterday? An extremly violent explosion was heard in a radius of more than 100 kilometers. The authorities did not give any explanation. Thus, was it an explosion at a gas plant or at the military base of Mers el Kebir? Details from (Yves Lers), AFP correspondent in Algiers:

[Lers] The explosion that occured yesterday evening was heard by the inhabitants of Oran, the large city of the west, but also in several towns such as Mascara, Mostagenem, Sidi bel Abbes, within a 100 km radius of Oran.

According to witnesses, the explosion was much bigger than a supersonic bang but, all the same, it was quite far off. Civil protection authorities did not find any trace of this explosion in the region. We have registed nothing special, said one official, and we have found no trace. If, according to the civil protection authorities, the explosion did not come from the natural gas liquefaction plants in Arzew, people are thinking about the military installations at the naval base of Mers el Kebir, in the same region. But there, all is silent.

Movement for Democracy Group Established

LD1203230490 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] National political life was consolidated today with the appearance of a new political association called the Movement for Democracy in Algeria.

This news was announced by the Ministry of Interior which explained that the record of the establishment of this association was handed over to the OFFICIAL GAZETTE, bearing in mind that the Movement for Democracy in Algeria had submitted the application for its recognition on 21 January of the current year.

We recall that there are currently 22 political parties in the national political arena.

Egypt

Palestinian Envoy Comments on Peres' Dismissal

NC1303160690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA)—Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's dismissal today of Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Shim'on Peres, the Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, Sa'id Kamal, said the PLO does not want to interfere in Israel's internal affairs. He added that the PLO is interested in having an Israeli government capable of holding dialogue with the Palestinians.

In statements to MENA, Sa'id Kamal said that by closely coordinating with Egypt's political leadership, in the past six months the PLO has fulfilled all the peace requisites and arrangements on the basis of the five points proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The Palestinian ambassador said that Peres' dismissal today indicates the success of Shamir's policy of gaining time and embarking on futile procedures that waste time, which is what Shamir wants to do. Kamal added: Since he became prime minister, Shamir has been reiterating the phrase "to gain time" and has constantly evaded the international community's desire to start the process of peace and coexistence between the Palestinians and Israelis.

He said that any observer of these events assumes the United States will immediately take the required reasonable measures against Shamir's policy of intransigence and of insulting the U.S. secretary of state.

Israeli Knesset Member Arrives 11 Mar

NC1103213790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2059 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)—Elazar Granot, member of the Israeli Knesset and deputy leader of the Mapam Party, arrived in Cairo tonight for a three-day visit to Egypt.

The Knesset member will meet with Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister, agriculture minister, and secretary general of the National Democratic Party, and with Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Lebanese Health Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC1003173490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1341 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA)—Dr. 'Abdallah al-Rasi, Lebanese minister of health and tourism, arrived in Cairo from Beirut at midday to attend a conference of Arab health ministers which will open on Monday [12 March] and last for three days.

Al-Rasi said that tomorrow, Sunday, he will meet with Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism and civil aviation.

The Lebanese minister said that the conference is an opportunity for him to explain the situation in Lebanon and the suffering of the Lebanese people to the Arab brothers. Al-Rasi said that concerted efforts are needed to extend the legitimate power of the state throughout Lebanon. Despite troubles and foreign intervention, Lebanon is going to regain its normal life and independence, he added.

Egyptian Health Minister Dr. Raghib Duwaydar, who met al-Rasi at the airport, said: Lebanon is an important

member of the conference and we welcome Dr. al-Rasi here. Duwaydar added: Egypt supports Lebanese legitimacy and is opposed to the partition of that country. Lebanon should be rebuilt as a strong and unified country.

Syrian Health Minister Arrives for Conference

NC1103074390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0706 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)—Syrian Health Minister Dr. Muhammad Iyad al-Shatti arrived in Cairo from Damascus early this morning for a five-day visit.

During his stay in Cairo, he will participate in the three-day Arab health ministers conference which will open in Cairo tomorrow.

Syrian Envoy Comments on Mideast Situation

NC1303215290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Excerpts] This evening President Mubarak held a reception at the Presidential Palace for the delegations participating in the 13th conference of the African Parliaments Union being held in Cairo. [passage omitted]

The Conference of the African Parliaments Union resumed its meetings tonight under the chairmanship of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, its chairman. Shakir Sa'id, Syrian People's Assembly deputy speaker and representative of the African parliamentarians organization of Arab descent, stressed that the meeting between Syria and Egypt represents a meeting point for the Arab nation. In a speech at the conference, he said the situation in the Middle East is becoming more complicated because of Israel's arbitrary policy in the occupied Arab territory and the policy it is pursuing in settling Jews, a policy endangering current peace efforts. He said a just peace in the Middle East can be brought about through convening a peace conference for the Middle East under UN auspices, a peace that would ensure complete withdrawal from occupied Arab territory, the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and their right to self-determination. [passage omitted]

Mauritanian Minister Brings Message to Mubarak

NC1003174290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed, Mauritanian minister of mines and industry [title as received], who is currently visiting Cairo. Discussions during the meeting centered on the latest developments concerning the Egyptian mediation over the Senegalese-Mauritanian dispute as well as bilateral relations.

The Mauritanian minister arrived here early this morning, carrying a message from Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya to President Husni Mubarak.

'Limited Fire' at Foreign Ministry Controlled

NC1303122190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA)—A limited fire which broke out in the new Foreign Ministry building on the Nile corniche was controlled this morning.

According to Foreign Ministry sources, smoke was seen coming out of the seventh floor of the new Foreign Ministry building, which is being used as a storehouse for the al-Muqawilun al-'Arab Company, at around 0900 this morning. The fire was caused by a short circuit. It was controlled within minutes, thanks to the collective efforts of the al-Muqawilun al-'Arab industrial safety organ, the Foreign Ministry security organ, and the fire brigades.

It is worth noting that the building has not been officially turned over to the Foreign Ministry, though the ministry offices now occupy the first four stories of the building.

Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood Leader Denied Entry

JN1003163690 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] The State Security Police on Wednesday [7 March] prevented Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, the general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, from entering Egypt. When the Muslim scholar arrived at Cairo airport, officials decided to deport him from the country.

Anti-Drug Investigators Seize Drugs in Cairo

JN0603171190 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 5 Mar 90 p 7

[Excerpt] The police have saved 40,000 citizens from falling into the abyss of drug addiction by injection. The drug addiction dens are spread among the shanty towns and cemeteries of Cairo. Despite the continuing search for and discovery of these dens, the pushers continue to return after the security forces have completed their raid, arrested the owners, and seized the fatal maxton fort poison in their possession. The dens appear once again and are managed by the wife, children, or boys of the "big master," either in the same place or in a new cemetery.

Anti-drug investigators under the leadership of Brigadier General Tal'at Mansur have succeeded in arresting members of the most dangerous and fatal maxton fort dens in al-Khalifah cemetery.

Lieutenant Colonels 'Asim al-Shadhli, Husayn Wali, and Ahmad Fathi pursued a driver from his home area to a

den to hand over shots of the drug to addicts at five pounds a shot. There, they found 36,000 cubic centimeters of the fatal liquid and syringes—enough to eliminate 40,000 citizens. [passage omitted]

Libya

UN Delegate Protests U.S. 'Harassment' of Mission

LD1003220390 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] New York, 10 Mar (JANA)—The brother permanent delegate of the Great Jamahiriyah to the United Nations has met with Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, with whom he discussed the problems and harassment to which the Great Jamahiriyah mission to the United Nations is subjected by the U.S. Administration, a matter which constitutes a dangerous violation of the UN Headquarters agreement between the United Nations and the U.S. Administration, as well as all international agreements concerning the work of permanent diplomatic missions at the UN Headquarters in New York.

OAU Head Reconfirms Support, Solidarity

LD1303151990 Tripoli JANA in English 1424 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Rabia [March] 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Organization of African Unity [OAU] has reconfirmed its support and solidarity with the Libyan Arab people against the U.S. hostile campaigns.

Mr S.A. Salim, the secretary general of the Organization of African Unity, in comments made by him on arrival in Tripoli yesterday, said that the O.A.U. countries stand alongside the people of Great Al-Jamahiriyah in standing firmly against the U.S. campaigns.

He added that they in the O.A.U. called for encountering this hostile campaign reconfirm the right of the peoples to make their choices and to be left to live in peace.

He lauded the increasing role of Great Al-Jamahiriyah at the Arab, African and international levels pointing out that his visit came within the purview of consultations with the brothers in Great Al-Jamahiriyah on a number of matters of interest to the African Continent.

Concluding the comments, he called upon the African countries that it was necessary to repulse the Zionist penetration in the African Continent.

Morocco

Reportage on Visit of Lebanese President

Met by King Hassan at Agadir

LD0603214590 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, arrived in Agadir this evening. His Majesty King Hassan II awaited the arrival of the Lebanese president at Agadir-Azgan airport. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks With Hassan

LD0703143990 Rabat MAP in English 1203 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Agadir, Mar. 7, (MAP)—King Hassan II who was accompanied by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed Tuesday received here president Ilyas al-Hirawi of Lebanon. The sovereign and the Lebanese head of state held talks in the presence of Lebanese Premier and Foreign Minister Salim al-Huss.

King Hassan II later on hosted a dinner banquet in honor of President al-Hirawi and his accompanying delegation that includes, besides Salim al-Huss, the Minister of Agriculture Muhsin Dallul, Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry Souhail Chamas, presidential advisers as well as Lebanon's Ambassador to Rabat Sami Karanfal.

President al-Hirawi arrived in Agadir (more than 560 km south of Rabat) earlier Tuesday on a visit that is part of a tour in the member countries forming the Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon, namely Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco.

Al-Hirawi had already visited Riyadh and Algiers where he conferred with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and President Chadli Bendjedid on means of extending the legal government's authority over the whole Lebanese territory.

At a press conference he held in Algiers Tuesday before flying to Agadir, President al-Hirawi said he had obtained the political support but that he still needed the financial backing so necessary to the Lebanese state to extend its sovereignty over the whole territory, liberate southern Lebanon and promote national infrastructures.

PNC President Al-Sa'ih Arrives for Talks in Rabat

LD0703144990 Rabat MAP in English 1220 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Rabat, March 7, (MAP)—Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, president of the Palestinian National Council (PNC: parliament in exile), arrived Tuesday evening in Rabat on a few-day visit to Morocco. In a statement, al-Sa'ih said during his visit, he will hold a series of talks with a number of Moroccan officials. He in this regard

expressed gratitude to Morocco, its king, government and people, for untiring efforts in favour of the Palestinians' just cause.

Al-Sa'ih paid a moving tribute to King Hassan II, particularly hailing his stand over the issue of Soviet Jews' emigration to the occupied Arab territories. He expressed hope Moslem leaders will ponder the issue to face up to the threat looming over al-Quds and the Arab-Islamic world.

Al-Sa'ih was greeted upon arrival by first, second and fourth deputy-speakers of the Moroccan parliament and by ambassador of Palestine to Morocco.

Algerian Minister Signs Mining Accords, Departs

LD0903234190 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Report by station correspondent in Casablanca]

[Excerpt] The official visit to Morocco by Algerian Minister of Mines Sadek Boussena from 7-9 March was crowned by the signing of the minutes of the talks he had with his Moroccan counterpart, Minister of Energy and Mines Mohamed Fettah. They also signed two agreements in the field of energy and mines which provide for the setting up of a new power line between Oujda and Tlemcen, bearing mind that the Algerian and Moroccan power networks had been previously linked through the Oujda-Ghazaouet line.

In the mining sector, the Moroccan and Algerian sides agreed to make special efforts in the field of geological analysis and to intensify cooperation to exploit border regions. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Kurdufan Peace Conference Ends; Report Published

EA0903142790 Khartoum SUNA in French 1543 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Al-Ubayyid, 7 Mar (SUNA)—The Kurdufan peace and development conference on Wednesday 7 March published its final report and resolutions. The conference called for the creation of an office to control the activities of charitable organizations and promote national charitable organizations.

The conference also called for the development of Islamic institutes and the promotion of Islamic propagation, as well as for the launching of a department for Christian affairs in the Ministry of Religious Affairs. The conference also called for the promotion of information activity in the province.

Al-Bashir Returns From Conference

EA0903182690 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Mar (SUNA)—he Revolution Command Council chairman, General 'Umar al-Bashir, and the accompanying delegation returned here yesterday after a two-day inspection visit to Kurdufan Region during which he attended the concluding session of Kurdufan Region peace conference and paid visits to Dilling and Kadugli towns.

In Dilling, General al-Bashir attended the annual celebrations of Dilling Education Institute. Addressing a mass rally at the institute, Gen al-Bashir announced that the Agricultural Bank has agreed to sell about 500,000 durra [sorghum] sacks to Southern Kurdufan Province for covering the food shortage, at the basic price. In addition, General al-Bashir announced the bank's support to the regional authorities of Kurdufan with 170,000 durra sacks. He told the mass rally that the increase of production comes top in the priority list of the revolution.

He said the Armed Forces and other organized forces, as well as the Popular Defense Forces, were all directed to secure the areas of agricultural production in Kurdufan Region. Meanwhile, Gen al-Bashir has hailed the region's citizens' contribution to the nationalist movement in Sudan and resisting colony. [sentence as received]

Al-Bashir Meets With Visiting UAE Official

EA0903135790 Khartoum SUNA in French 1515 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Mar (SUNA)—General 'Umar al-Bashir, National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] chairman, yesterday received the United Arab Emirates minister of state for foreign affairs in the presence of Colonel Salah Karrar, NSRCC member and head of the Council's econo nic committee. During the meeting, the two sides assessed the state of bilateral relations and the means of developing them.

The Arab envoy arrived in the Sudan yesterday for an official visit to the country to study with Sudanese officials all the current issues on the Arab and international scene, in addition to other matters of common interest.

Al-Bashir Departs for 1-Day Visit to Zaire

EA1103140290 Khartoum SUNA in French 0915 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Mar (SUNA)—General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, NSRCC, left Khartoum on Sunday morning for Kinshasa on an official 24-hour visit to Zaire, where he is to hold talks with the Zairian head of state, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, on bilateral

relations and ways to promote them further in various areas. Discussions will also cover international and regional issues of mutual interest.

The head of the NSRCC is being accompanied on this trip by member of the NSRCC, Colonel Dominic Kassiano, and by the NSRCC political adviser, Yusuf Sa'id.

Describes Talks With Mobutu

EA1203120990 Khartoun SUNA in English 0920 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum Mar 12 (SUNA)—The chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] General 'Umar al-Bashir returned here yesterday from Kinshasa ending a one-day visit to Zaire during which he had talks with Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Gen. al-Bashir said in press statement upon his return from Zaire that his talks with President Sese Seko dealt with bilateral relations, activation of border trade, the implementation of the agreement reached between the two countries at the recent meeting of their joint ministerial committee, and the peace process in Sudan.

The chairman of the Revolution Command Council added that he had briefed the Zairean president on the revolution's viewpoints on peace, saying that consultations are under way between Sudan and Zaire on one hand and between Zaire and the rebellion movement on the other.

Gen al-Bashir said that he expected that the coming days would witness positive results in this respect. He hailed the role being played by President Sese Seko for the realization of peace in Sudan.

Gen. al-Bashir was accompanied during the visit by RCC member and political supervisor of Equatoria Region Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, the political advisor of RCC chairman, Yusuf Sa'id, and Army Brigadier Kamal 'Ali Mukhtar.

Foreign Ministry Source Defends 'Spy' Sentences

JN1303193090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA)—In commenting on the British campaign over the sentence passed on the spy, Farzad Bazoft, and his accomplice, Daphne Anne Parish, the Foreign Ministry official spokesman stated the following:

The statements made by the British authorities about the just and legal sentence passed on the spy of Iranian origin, Bazoft, and his accomplice in the spying crime, the British subject Parish, were characterized by hastiness. As we know, this is not the way to make the president of the Republic of Iraq intervene and use his constitutional powers to reduce the sentence.

The president of the Republic of Iraq cannot make such a decision under pressure and media and political campaigns. Furthermore, Iraq has confidence in its judiciary. Iraq believes the sentence passed on a person who committed the crime of deliberately spying on behalf of a hostile party, and on his accomplice in the crime, is a just sentence issued after a legal trial. The British consul in Baghdad even attended the trial, in which each of the defendants had a lawyer chosen by the British Embassy itself.

The spokesman stressed that Iraq could not yield to any political or media pressure that infringed on its natural rights to defend itself against spying and crimes that threaten its national security.

It should be said that the criminal Bazoft is of Iranian nationality and carries a British travel permit [wathiqat safar]. During investigations and the trial, he admitted that he was an agent of the "Israeli" and British intelligence services.

Paper Says U.S. Policy Contradicts 'Durable Peace'

JN1003105090 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 10, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad for today called on the United States to end its military presence in the Arab Gulf region and stop its backing and support for emigration of the Soviet Jews towards the occupied Arab territories.

In a commentary the paper cited what President Saddam Husayn had talked about in his speech at the opening session of Amman summit concerning various Arab and international topics, mainly the question of peace in the region and the U.S. attitude towards these issues.

The paper said those who follow up the American practical, not the declared stance in official statements, versus the two most important issues of peace in the Arab Gulf region and in Palestine would come out with deductions suggesting that the U.S. does not want peace, as it declares and claims, insists on continuity of its military presence in the Gulf despite cessation of hostilites in the Iraq-Iran war since August 8, 1988 and end [of] the circumstances that led to the American intensified presence in the Arab Gulf. Added to all that is the U.S. support and backing to the Soviet Jews emigration to the occupied Arab territories.

The paper maintains that if these acts are part of the American comprehensive and firm policy, it means this policy contradicts in aims and means the establishment of durable peace in the region.

According to this assumption, it is for the Americans interest the continuity of the state of no war, no peace between Iraq and Iran and foundering of their negotiations to give good reason for continuation of its military presence. Also, the influx of the Soviet Jews into the Zionist entity means more aggression and Zionist expansion and denial of Arab rights in Palestine.

The paper concluded that acts not intentions could be the right judgement for assessing the American policy in the region and define the means of confronting it.

Alignment Ends Meeting; 'Entire' Faction United

TA1303130990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1215 GMT 13 Mar 90

[By Dov Gilhar]

[Text] The Alignment ministers meeting has just ended. Let me begin with the end of the meeting and tell about the request by Hayim Ramon, head of the Alignment Knesset faction, that all members of the faction be present in the Knesset building for the next three days and that they not leave the building from the beginning to the end of the plenary sessions in order to be on guard in case the Likud tries to perform additional political tricks. The emphasis was, of course, on this coming Thursday.

At the beginning of the meeting, Shim'on Peres spoke about Yitzhaq Shamir. He said: Shamir is not bad when it comes to slander, evasions, and make-believe. Shim'on Peres said that for 15 years the Likud has been trying to commit character assassination. The Likud tried to assassinate my character and benefit from this, too, along the lines of: Have you killed and also taken possession? It is a bit of insolence on the part of this man, Shamir, said Peres, to launch this slanderous campaign. We had best know who we are dealing with, Peres added. Shamir is a man who has not kept even a single commitment. Thus today the Alignment faction is setting out with open attacks on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

Yitzhaq Rabin told the faction members about all the last minute moves and efforts he and David Magen made in order to reach a compromise, to reach some sort of deal that would enable the current government to continue. Yet, Rabin said, we did not manage to reach a compromise; the Likud rejected all the proposals we raised.

The entire faction is united behind Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres. The Alignment faction is infuriated by a decision by Deputy Knesset Speaker 'Ovadya 'Eli, who erased the name of Knesset Member Shevah Weiss, a deputy Knesset speaker on behalf of the Alignment, from the list of chairmen for Thursday's Knesset session. This means the fateful session on Thursday will be chaired only by Likud deputy speakers and Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky, also of the Likud. The Alignment is very angry over this move, saying the Knesset does not belong to the Likud. The Alignment is currently considering submitting an appeal to the High Court of Justice against this decision by 'Ovadya 'Eli.

SHAS To Vote for Government in Knesset

TA1303181590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1750 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] The SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] faction has just concluded its 90-minute debate, at the end of which a communique was issued to the press. Our correspondent Eytan Almog has the communique:

[Almog] Minister Peretz will read the statement:
[Peretz] The members of the SHAS faction express their sorrow at the dismissal of Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres from the Cabinet and call upon the two large parties to make a supreme, last-minute effort to preserve the integrity of the national unity government. SHAS has decided to recommend unanimously to the Council of Torah Scholars a resolution be passed in favor of supporting the Cabinet.

[Almog] What is the implication of this resolution, Rabbi Peretz?
[Peretz] Exactly what it says.

[Almog] Meaning?
[Peretz] Meaning that we very much hope it will be possible to reverse things and preserve the integrity of the national unity government. At the same time, we are realistic and know things do not always take the desired course. Thus, if a no-confidence vote is held, we all will recommend the Council of Torah Scholars pass a resolution stating SHAS will continue to support the incumbent government and will vote for confidence in it.

[Almog] Will you impose party discipline at that vote?
[Peretz] This will be unnecessary, because all faction members are present.

[Almog] Will all of them be present at the vote as well?
[Peretz] All the faction members are present, and they all have adopted a unanimous resolution to vote for the Cabinet.

[Almog] Are you sure that all faction members will attend the vote?
[Peretz] That is in the hands of God. As human beings, we cannot tell what might happen in five minutes.

[Almog] Will you support a unity government or a narrow government?
[Peretz] We will first of all support a national unity government. If the national unity government is unable to continue to function, unfortunately, we will vote in favor of the government.

[Almog] Thank you very much, Mr. Minister.

Knesset Argues Over No Confidence Vote

TA1303185190 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1802 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Thirty-six hours remain to save the government, but at the moment prospects look very dim. The 12-hour government crisis began this morning when Mr. Shamir fired Mr. Peres, leading to the subsequent resignation of all the Alignment ministers.

The drama is currently taking place within the Knesset building, between the Knesset and the attorney general, and between the Knesset and the High Court of Justice. Here is an update of the situation:

At the moment, Knesset Member [MK] 'Ovadya 'Eli, deputy Knesset speaker, is conferring with the attorney general on the legality of the Knesset's decision to hold the vote of no confidence in the government tomorrow.

This was a last-minute development: MAPAM [United Workers Party] has submitted a new motion of no confidence. MK Mordekhay Virshubsky, the presiding speaker at the time, took advantage of the presence of most opposition MK's to put the motion to a debate. The plenum accepted his proposal, but Deputy Speaker 'Eli hastened to disqualify it. The attorney general's ruling is being awaited now.

Meanwhile, the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] is currently submitting an appeal to the High Court of Justice against Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky. Our legal affairs correspondent Shlomo Arad reports that the CRM is asking the court to issue an order that would oblige the speaker to hold the debate tomorrow on the no-confidence motion the CRM submitted last Wednesday. The appellants argue that by setting the vote for Thursday, the speaker exceeded his authority in order to give the prime minister time to fire the Alignment ministers. In that event, should his government fall, Shamir would head a narrow-based government for the transition period. The CRM argues that the Knesset speaker conducted himself extremely dishonestly and made a mockery of the principle of separation of powers. A hearing of the appeal is scheduled to begin at this time in the chambers of the judge on duty.

For a picture of what is now happening in the Knesset building, we will go to our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran, live.

['Azran] We are near the plenum hall. The political developments concerning the fate of the unity government are now moving from the Knesset, which is currently discussing another matter before an empty house, to the High Court of Justice. The question is whether the court will or will not interfere in the Knesset's internal affairs. The decision to appeal to the High Court of Justice came from the CRM and the Alignment, both of which want to impose on the Knesset's agenda a vote of no confidence in the government as early as tomorrow. Why tomorrow? Because according to law, the resignation of the Alignment ministers and the dismissal of Minister Peres takes effect only after 48 hours. That being the case, if the government falls tomorrow after the no-confidence vote and becomes a caretaker government, the Alignment ministers would not stay out.

The race concerning the no-confidence motions became heated when it was learned the prime minister intends to call on the president on Thursday, submit his resignation, and turn his government into a caretaker regime. In that case, he would continue to serve as prime minister while the Alignment ministers would stay out. [passage omitted]

As for the vote of no confidence in the government, people in the Alignment estimate 60 MK's will do the job for them and the government will fall as a result of the abstention of some right-wing MK's. A hot chase currently is under way after each and every MK to win him over.

To sum up: There still remains the question of when the vote of no confidence will be conducted and the possible subsequent fall of the government. The question of whether the High Court of Justice will intervene in the Knesset's internal affairs is partly relevant as to whether the Alignment ministers will stay in the government or be out of it.

As for the Likud—and this is news—some MK's say this evening if Mr. Shamir is the obstacle for the vote of confidence of the religious parties, somebody else should be placed at the head of the party. New tunes in the Likud.

Appeal on No-Confidence Bid Set for 14 Mar

TA1303190490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1829 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Our correspondent Qami Baratz is in the High Court of Justice, which is witnessing swift developments:

[Baratz] Eli'ezer Goldberg, the justice on duty, perused the appeal submitted by the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] 10 or 15 minutes ago. He reviewed it for a few moments and ruled it will be discussed tomorrow at 0900 [0700 GMT] before a three-justice panel. He also said all four respondents will be invited to the hearing. Let me just recall they are Knesset Member [MK] 'Ovadya 'Eli, who is acting Knesset speaker; [Knesset Speaker] MK Dov Shilansky [who is out of the country] or his representative, of course; a representative of the Government of Israel, as it seems likely Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will not come here in person; and another representative on behalf of the Government of Israel, a member of the Prime Minister's Office staff.

In this context, I would like to say there is some more news: The Labor Party apparently has decided to assault the issue on all fronts. I heard a few minutes ago that this evening—perhaps in the next few minutes or hours—another appeal is expected to be submitted by the Alignment faction. The current appeal was submitted by the CRM, but I have been told another appeal by the Alignment faction is expected in the next hour, and that still another is expected to be submitted tomorrow morning—again, on a similar issue—by the United Workers Party.

To sum up, let us just repeat the decision of the justice here in the High Court of Justice in Jerusalem: Justice on Duty Eli'ezer Goldberg reviewed the CRM's appeal and judged it will be debated tomorrow at 0900 before a panel of three justices. The respondents will be invited to the hearing.

Acting Speaker Rules on No-Confidence Debate

TA1303192990 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1918 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Here is an update from the Knesset: Acting Knesset Speaker 'Ovadya 'Eli, after hearing all the parties on the latest no-confidence motion—the one submitted by MAPAM [United Workers Party]—said he has ruled this motion, too, will be debated, together with all the other no-confidence motions on Thursday [15 March].

Knesset Member 'Eli announced the Knesset's agenda only is set by the speaker or his deputy. The entire issue of the date and time for the debate and the no-confidence motions, however, will be discussed by the High Court of Justice tomorrow. This report was filed by our correspondent, Ya'aqov Ahime'ir.

Alignment Has '60 Votes' for No Confidence

TA1303204790 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 2015 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Studio discussion between anchorman Hayim Yavin and party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran—live]

[Excerpts] [Yavin] The race continues to mobilize all Knesset members [MK] in anticipation of the no-confidence vote, regardless of whether it is conducted Thursday or tomorrow, if the High Court of Justice so decides. We would like to hear more details from Hanan 'Azran, who has just walked into the studio. First of all, where does the race stand as far as the religious parties are concerned? Who will and who will not succeed in mustering a majority?

['Azran] The race mostly is being conducted on the phone, rather than in person. The race now is centered on two ultraorthodox factions: Agudat Yisra'el and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]. [passage omitted] At the moment, the Alignment actually can point to the support of 60 MK's: 39 of the Alignment; five of the Citizens Rights Movement; three of the United Workers Party; two of Shinuy; three of the New Communist List; one of Charlie Biton, who at present is a one-man faction; two MK's of the Arab factions; and five of Agudat Yisra'el.

[Yavin] Charlie Biton rebelled slightly today, saying he would come out against the Alignment because of what the latter did in the slums.

['Azran] According to the Alignment, they count Charlie Biton among those who will join the vote of no confidence in the government. As for the Likud, it is having a hard time mustering a majority, and is trying to win over 60 MK's to support it. The question of the breakaway Liberal MK's is not yet closed. They are threatening—and their threat is not being taken seriously....

[Yavin, interrupting] Where does Minister Moda'i stand?

['Azran] Minister Moda'i currently is in the United States. Seeing that he has a long way to go, if he does not leave now, he might not be here in time to take part in the vote, even if it is held on Thursday. As I am told, he has not yet left the United States. Even if the entire right wing stands by the Likud, the government might fall, due to the missing vote of Yitzhaq Moda'i.

[Yavin] That could be his sweet revenge.

['Azran] If that is what he does.

[Yavin] That is, if he intentionally fails to be here on time for the vote.

Degel Hatora Vote 'Crucial' in No Confidence

TA1403064190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Mar 90

[By political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Excerpts] This is how things look this morning: The Alignment believes it will topple the government in the upcoming no-confidence vote, whether the High Court of Justice allows it to take place today, or if it is held tomorrow. The Likud, likewise, believes it will win a majority in the no-confidence vote and that Prime Minister Shamir will remain prime minister. [passage omitted]

The Alignment counts 60 hands in favor of the motion of no confidence in the government. The crucial question at the moment is what Degel Hatora, the two-member party, will do, or rather, what its spiritual leader, Rabbi Schach, will instruct it to do. This still is unclear, and Degel Hatora at present is the focus of the Likud and Alignment efforts. All the Alignment needs is to obtain a Degel Hatora abstention; in this case, the outcome—as far as is possible at this juncture, when minor surprises still are possible—of the no-confidence vote will be 60 versus 58. If this happens, the Alignment will have won a majority.

As things stand now, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], will not lend a hand to toppling the government, but it will help the Alignment establish a narrow-based government, if circumstances allow it. That is, if this government falls without its help, SHAS will help Peres to set up a new government.

All the parties now are calling up their reserves. Many rumors and fragments of disinformation are being disseminated to create a deliberate vagueness. The Likud this morning is staging a unity parade—a must after the profound internal crises it suffered. Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, one of the heads of the constraints camp, is scheduled to meet this morning with Prime Minister Shamir. His name already had been mentioned as the recipient of the Foreign Ministry portfolio in the Likud's narrow-based government—if and when it is established.

It should be noted, at the same time, that Knesset Member Rivlin, who is close to Minister Levi, has proposed to Prime Minister Shamir to forgo the premiership and to give the position to another Likud minister. The goal of this move is to resume the good ties with parties such as Agudat Yisra'el, that still bear a grudge against the prime minister who, they claim, did not keep the promises he made to them. [passage omitted]

More on Alignment, Likud Talks With Parties

TA1403085490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] In this morning's meeting, the Alignment ministers were briefed on contacts with parties; they decided to conduct additional talks and decided who will hold those talks.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports Shinuy Knesset Member [MK] Amnon Rubinstein, who met with Shim'on Peres this morning, estimates the motion of no confidence in the government enjoys a majority. In one hour, Mr. Peres will meet with representatives of MAPAM [United Workers Party]. At 1130 [0930 GMT], representatives of Degel Hatora are scheduled to arrive at Peres' bureau at the Finance Ministry.

This morning, Ministers Rabin and Edri met with members of the Agudat Yisra'el Knesset faction. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that, in that meeting, the Agudat Yisra'el MK's reiterated their commitment to vote no confidence in the government.

Our correspondent meanwhile has learned various religious elements outside Agudat Yisra'el are endeavoring to get the Lubavitche Rabbi [U.S.-based Aguda spiritual leader] to urge Agudat Yisra'el MK's not to support the Alignment.

The Knesset House Committee now is debating the request of the five Liberal MK's to establish an independent faction.

In the Prime Minister's Office, the meeting between Yitzhaq Shamir and his deputy, David Levi, has ended. Mr. Shamir also has summoned Yitzhaq Moda'i and Ari'el Sharon to his office today. Our correspondent has learned the two indeed will arrive for a meeting with the prime minister.

The prime minister today also will conduct a meeting with the Likud Knesset faction.

Likud MK Sha'ul 'Amor has said, judging by the contacts he conducted last night with elements close to Rabbi Schach, he believes Degel Hatora will not support a narrow-based government headed by Shim'on Peres. MK Sha'ul 'Amor told our correspondent Hayim Hecht the talks with Rabbi Schach's court will continue today in a bid to persuade him to instruct Degel Hatora to support the government in the Knesset vote.

Poll: Likud-Led Narrow Government Preferred

TA1403092090 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] On 13 March 1990, upon the request of YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Teleseqer Research Institute conducted a survey of public attitudes in the wake of the government crisis.

The survey was conducted by telephone interviews with 513 men and women over 18 years of age representing a nationwide sample of Israeli households.

The following are the questions and the breakdown of answers:

A. Are you for or against holding elections now?

	Percent of Total Sample
For	44.6
Against	45.8
Do not know/ care	9.6

B. If a narrow-based government is established, what kind of government would you prefer?

	Percent of Total Sample
Likud-led government	41.1
Alignment-led government	40.0
Do not know/ care	18.9

C. Without any connection with your previous replies, whose position was more justified in the current confrontation, in your opinion?

	Percent of Total Sample
Shamir	34.9
Peres	36.4
Do not know/ care	28.7

D. If Knesset elections were held today, which party would receive your vote?

	Percent of Total Sample
Alignment	33.1
Likud	29.0
Left-wing bloc (without Alignment)	7.4

Right-wing bloc (without Likud)	7.0
Religious parties	6.0
"Floating" (refuse to answer, have not decided, will not vote)	17.5

Shamir Addresses Likud Knesset Faction 14 Mar

TA1403103590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0916 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the Likud Knesset faction at the Knesset in Jerusalem on 14 March—live]

[Text] Honorable chairman, fellow ministers, deputy Knesset speaker, Knesset members, friends. These are hard and tense days.

Each morning brings its news and surprises. This morning we woke up to a flood of insults and libel from Mr. Peres. This time, of course, it is directed mainly against me, and only against me. I have no intention of competing with Mr. Peres in mudslinging and libel. This always has been his specialty. I loathe personal affronts and insults and would prefer not to turn this into an organic part of political life in Israel. But everything has its limit, and Mr. Peres should be told he must not delude himself that he can deceive all the people all the time.

There is a limit to lies, but apparently there is no limit to that group of people who received empty promises from Mr. Peres. He now presents himself as a supreme man of his word. Well, in political life, not everyone can keep all his promises, and sometimes this is a cause for sorrow and pain for those people involved. I can tell all those Knesset members who do not tire of reminding me, for example, of promises I once made but could not keep, however, that I am sorry for such incidents and that course of events. I only can state in my defense—and for me this is a very important justification, perhaps not for everyone—that whenever I acted in this manner and failed to keep a promise it was because I felt it was my duty to the country and the nation. I never altered a thing because of personal or political considerations.

When I faced the dilemma of keeping or not keeping something that was agreed upon, but whose implementation could harm the most sensitive and important national interests—national unity for example, the unity of the Jewish people—then despite the pain of having to do something one detests, I decided in this dilemma, without qualms, to take action for the national interest and the unity of the Jewish people throughout the world.

It may be that, in the political maelstrom, people should be more prudent in reaching agreements and making promises, but even if they are not prudent, they should be even more careful when it comes to the benefit of the people and the country.

This is what I care about, it always has been and always will be the decisive issue for me. I do not know what offended Mr. Peres so much because, after all, I did not insult him. I could have—I could have attacked him a hundredfold more than I did. All I said in my statement in the Inner Cabinet was that Mr. Peres had reached the conclusion—not recently, but perhaps as early as in the first days of the national unity government's establishment—that the existence of this government should be discontinued. After reaching this conclusion, he acted according to the spirit of his decision.

There is no sin in a man reaching a conclusion and then acting to implement it in reality. It is inconceivable, however, that a man behaving in such a manner, who is working toward undermining a government he is convinced should not exist, should continue being part of that government. This is the logic behind my actions. I do not think he should have taken offense or felt personally insulted.

No one could have suspected the Likud of being entirely made up of fools, idiots, or naive, innocent, and inexperienced people that would not understand the import of the Labor Central Committee's resolution, when they decided in a convoluted and sharply worded statement to disband the national unity government. It was clear to everyone. What were we to do? To play the game according to the role they assigned us? To say OK, you have decided what you have decided, and to use the language of the chairman of their faction—you have not given us any cause to punish you—and therefore, from now on, we have to bow our head and take our beating, or turn the other cheek and get slapped?

All this just because someone has invented some kind of smart aleck style that cannot pull the wool over the eyes of even the most naive observer? I believe we acted correctly, in the manner dictated by the logic of events. This confrontation really is not about this or that behavior, or about this or that mode of action. The confrontation is political. This is what we must place the stress upon and devote our attention to. He accuses us, he blames me, he says peace with the Likud will never be possible. I have not yet seen how he achieved peace. I have not seen the Labor Party's great achievements in the field of peace.

We are convinced, I am convinced, that peace with the Arab world is possible. The road to peace will be long and difficult, but when one insists on one's principles, one is respected for one's very readiness to begin peace negotiations. Any concession, even if not an important one, coming from a man who enjoys the reputation of firm adherence to principles and national interests, will be appreciated a thousandfold more than the promises of people whose political strategy always is to accept whatever they are offered, who never reject any proposal

coming from strangers. They always bow their head and say yes. No one believes these people or trusts them—and rightly so.

We believe in the peace initiative we formulated together with the Alignment, with the Labor Party, with a part of its members, published by the Cabinet on 14 May 1989. We believe peace can be achieved if endeavored along the path we have outlined. If we deviate from it, if we turn it into something else, it will not lead to peace but really endanger our security and very existence.

If we insist everyone who joins negotiations with us should accept—to use Rabin's words—the framework of our initiative, then the dangers will be much reduced. We say, even today, if the initiative retains the same patterns, the same parameters, we explained and formulated, then there is great peace, and peace can be achieved along the path we have outlined. If we forgo all our principles and cease to consider the very issues we ourselves formulated and waged wars for, then there is no chance we will achieve anything at all.

I read in some foreign paper that when discussing the peace initiative, one is referring to the election plan. I was amazed. The election clause is but the fourth clause of the four major clauses of the peace initiative. What happened to the previous three clauses? Regarding the improvement of our relations with the Arab states, the inclusion of our partners from the Camp David agreement, and a solution to the problem of the refugee camps: Where have these clauses gone and who made them vanish? From the first moment this initiative was conceived, the members of the Alignment—our partners in the government—immediately declared these clauses were meaningless, that this was some sort of concession of theirs to the Likud's caprice. After they had made this very clear, after partners to the government had issued these declarations, what possible chance was there the Arab world or the United States would take those clauses seriously—those very clauses that are the real spirit and life of the initiative?

They did this with the clear intention of sabotage. If the initiative is stuck, as they say, but it still exists, it is not defunct, and the Arabs both in Israel and abroad should be informed of this fact. It exists, and if there are difficulties, it mainly is because of the fact it was narrowed down to that one unique clause that it is difficult and complex. The initiative still is very far from fulfilling its main point, which is Israel's genuine desire to move forward toward peace.

I am sorry to state the Alignment leaders clearly are responsible for this negative development in the peace initiative. It is natural the United States also felt the easiest way for them to contribute their part would be in devoting their attention to that one clause, and if they have someone assisting them in Israel, then all the better. It is very sad that it did little, little, in implementing the other clauses of the initiative.

There were some perfunctory statements, but I did not see any serious diplomatic activity from the greatest superpower on earth, whose standing in the Middle East recently was greatly augmented. I could not discern any focused diplomatic energy to make the Arab states, or at least some, even several of them, change the nature of their relations with Israel, even just for appearances' sake. Even if the change was just a formality, it could have had great influence. I did not see this change come, however, and this should be greatly regretted.

Perhaps, in the future, if we succeed in getting the peace initiative back to its real and original path, we will have to devote more efforts and ask our friends in the United States to use all their weight in this region, toward implementation of these three clauses.

This also is true regarding the PLO. When we launched our initiative, it was explicitly stipulated in the initiative and in all the attendant clarifications the goal of this initiative is the removal of the PLO from the arena and from our relations with the Arabs. What so far has been done is the United States' and the State Department's energy was focused on this point more than others, and against the trends of the initiative. Here, meanwhile, we once more heard from the Alignment camp—and this was heard not just here in Israel, but also in the United States and elsewhere in the world—that nothing will budge without the PLO. Now, we are accustomed to this being said by Peace Now activists, or by dyed-in-the-wool self-declared left-wingers, and it does not even impress the Arabs. But when it comes from people sitting in the government and holding responsible positions in the government, this has a decisive influence.

I do not need to speak, and I always have refrained from speaking, about deeds carried out in the dead of night or even in the darkness of day when there are no witnesses, or when one thinks there are no witnesses. People who are very close to the head of the Alignment meet with people they are forbidden to see. What effect do these actions have on the principle that stipulates the peace initiative is directed against the PLO and should strive for the establishment of a group of interlocutors that do not come from inside the PLO—however difficult this may be, however long it may take, however dangerous it may be—because there is no chance of achieving peace with the PLO?

The PLO is not interested in peace with Israel. It is interested in a crushed and disintegrated Israel. One occasionally can still hear voices emanating from the PLO to the effect Israeli society is disintegrating, and today this is their consolation, since they hope it will hasten the accomplishment of their aspirations, and they have no other achievements.

Therefore today, when we hear the talk of going to an Israeli-Palestinian meeting and how they want to solve the problem by some sort of statement or formula that we will not negotiate with, the PLO...[changes thought] it is not so simple. This position must be imbued with

content. It must be totally clear what the Israeli delegation will do in each and every contingency. There are dozens of scenarios that must be painstakingly prepared for. We cannot count on some vague formula without any content, especially when we know what later happens to these formulas when one tries to implement and fulfill them.

The same goes for Jerusalem. Someone dared to say we have pulled some ancient facts about Jerusalem out of a drawer, thereby giving publicity to some mendacious reports about disagreements in the Jewish world and in Israel on the issue of Jerusalem. This is an absolute lie! We are very glad to hear all the declarations saying no one is about to give up even one iota of sovereignty over an undivided and united Jerusalem. We are glad to hear them. When practical policy is being discussed, however, practical decisions must be made regarding what will and will not be done in the field.

When the participation of East Jerusalem Arabs in elections for autonomy was mentioned 10 years ago in the Israeli Government and in its talks with the United States, it was my privilege to have been present at the poignant argument on the issue between Mr. Begin and former U.S. President Carter. Having refused categorically at that time—without entering into any polemics or presenting conditions—is it conceivable we will deviate from that stance? Does anyone conceive of such a possibility? One can recite 1,000 poems about the unity of Jerusalem, but not saying explicitly that there is no way the residents of East Jerusalem will participate in elections for autonomy will imperil the status of Jerusalem and the future of Jerusalem as Israel's capital—as it will the future of Israel. It is totally inconceivable any final reply will be given to the U.S. secretary of state before a totally agreed upon and clear position on this issue is made. The Jewish population of Israel must demand this of us, must tell the delegation when it starts on its way or makes preparations to depart for such an encounter: Do not leave! Do not go before this issue is clarified.

The Jewish population of the United States has rebelled, as pointed out by the chairman. They are not always aware of the issues constituting our relationship with the United States, but when Jerusalem is at stake, they all wake up to full unity. We must welcome and be grateful for this attitude, although according to what we have heard, not everyone was able to say the U.S. Administration was changing its mind. [sentence as heard] True, the U.S. President said this has been their policy for a long time. But this is a policy to which we object!

The fact the policy has been adhered to for a long time does not mean it will become part of the reality in Eretz Yisra'el. No way! When this issue is raised—and it is raised occasionally, because it will have to be part of the agenda of the Palestinian-Israeli encounter in a short time—it is obvious the Israeli stance must be voiced clearly and loudly. It is inconceivable any compromise whatsoever should be possible on this issue. I have a lot of respect for Minister Hammer and for all those who support his efforts to attain a compromise, but on this issue, no compromise is conceivable; none is conceivable. The heart and conscience of all of us will not allow it, will not make it possible. The saying—I will not keep silent for the sake of Jerusalem—is not empty words. By keeping silent, by abstaining from speaking, you signal your agreement. It is as if you participated in sabotaging the status of Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Israel.

This, therefore, is no mere obstinacy, inflexibility, intransigence, or so on. It is an elementary insistence on Israel's basic interests. [At this point the relay cuts to the commentator, who reports on the continuing meeting in Peres' office for about two minutes.]

[Shamir resumes] ...the cooperation we have with the United States in so many areas. It is natural and already has become an accepted norm for the diplomatic and political community of the United States to say—and it sounds so pleasing to the ear—that the fabric of relations between the United States and Israel is so vast and variegated that one should not be surprised when occasionally differences crop up over some issues. It is nice to hear and good to reach the conclusion that when there are differences of opinion and Israel insists on its positions, they do not, should not, and will not affect the friendly relations and cooperation between us and the United States. It was good to hear the restrained comments during the past few days.

Israel itself must resolve its political problems. Israel's positions should be clear, and they are clear to our fellow kinsmen in the United States. They are absolutely clear, and it is good and encouraging to know they insist on them firmly, showing Jewish pride. I hope if things continue like this, if there is a united stand shared by Israel and the U.S. Jewish community, as well as the Jewish community all over the world plus our friends in Congress, then our position will prevail. But first of all, the position must be firm, strong, and clear here in Israel, first of all in the Knesset.

In relation to the peace initiative, and in connection with the exchange between Israel and the United States in this sphere—and there are other issues as well, which may seem less significant, but everything is important in and of itself: When we accepted Baker's five points and decided to append to them conditions that were termed assumptions, who underestimated them? Who said they were insignificant? [Words indistinct] our partners, the Alignment, our partners in the Cabinet, and then it came as no surprise that the Cabinet secretary, who traveled to the United States to discuss these assurances, did not get very far. To this date there are some elements in it without which it is absolutely impossible to make progress. It is very difficult to move.

At the same time, on the public agenda in Israel there currently are some issues of fundamental importance. There are many items on the agenda, but there are some basic items whose importance is doubted by no one, and

which require a firm and united stand if anyone at all grants credence and importance to national unity. They are the matter of peace, an issue that has been on the Israeli agenda throughout its existence. Clearly, this matter should be handled by people who do not a priori concede everything and give in to every demand by the other side. Then there is the problem of Jerusalem, over which there is no question at all and whose boundaries cannot be violated at all. Then there is the business of aliyah, the flow of Soviet emigrants from the Soviet Union. There is the Arab campaign against aliyah, which [passage indistinct due to superimposed report by IDF correspondent]

...not to interfere with the Jews' exodus [words indistinct], but I must say that we never imagined [words indistinct] we cannot conceive that (?any change would occur in the policy itself). Let me emphasize: Immigrants are coming, though we would like to see more Jews come, but they are coming, arriving in greater numbers each month. Aliyah will continue, and tremendous, logical, and reasonable efforts are being made to make it flow in the necessary stream. All the rumors that are being spread from time to time that not enough is being done, that the efforts are insufficient, are wrong. It is impossible to describe or make public everything that is being done, but many things are being done as required and warranted. With or without censorship, I believe the thousands of listeners or viewers in Israel accept the fact not everything in this sensitive issue should be published, even though the limitations affect merely a tiny fraction of what can or should be published.

At any rate, it should be clear this aliyah should and will continue. Naturally, to date one could say immigrant absorption has been conducted diligently and efficiently. It takes a lot of [words indistinct], but the Israeli Government, the national unity government, should devote all its energy to this issue and should incorporate in this mission all of Israeli society. We can today be proud of the fact the atmosphere in Israel and the readiness of people to participate, assist, and help give the new immigrants the feeling they are coming home is positive, friendly, and Jewish to an extent that has not been observed throughout the years of absorption of immigrants into Eretz Yisra'el.

If a broad consensus could be reached today on everything that has to do with the peace process, or more precisely, the attempts in the direction of implementing the peace initiative, and if we did not need to waste time and words over differences in this matter or on government crises, we could have handled this issue with greater efficiency and success and would have been able to devote most of our energy to this mission. This is because this is the secret of our success and victory. This is how the Arab world views it today.

The Arab world, as we can see, is angry these days; they see the people of Israel winning, making progress toward victory, thanks to aliyah. The intifadah gave them nothing; the changes in East Europe greatly weakened their backing and deprived the Arab world fighting against Israel of the support in its war against this country. They view aliyah as our chief success, and compare it to the other victories of 1948 and 1967. We must support this thinking by telling them: You are right—the string of success of Jewish Israeli revival continues and will continue. [passage indistinct]

We have told [words indistinct] to the last moment—to the last moment—we are ready to accept agreements that are not incompatible with our most sacred and most important principles. It is not a matter of prestige; it has nothing to do with personal prestige. We are not driven by the desire for honor or prestige. The confrontation in the Knesset should end with the success of the national camp, which is the one to uphold national unity. I call upon all the leaders of the Likud and all the members of the national camp, from every side and from every group, to unite and join hands to create the power that will allow us to continue the progress toward an undivided, strong, and united Eretz Yisra'el. Thank you very much.

Sharon Addresses Likud Faction on Unity Plans

TA1403120790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 14 Mar 90

[By Knesset affairs correspondent Ze'ev Kohen]

[Text] The Likud faction meeting has ended. Knesset Member [MK] Ari'el Sharon has concluded his address. Before reporting on them, we would like to point out that reports alleging that MK Rivlin urged the prime minister to resign have been disproved. Re'uven Rivlin has called on the prime minister to unite the ranks and to make an effort to reach an agreement with the religious parties. There is great importance in placating the liberals at this time, Rivlin said.

MK Ari'el Sharon said the struggle of the constraints camp prevented negotiations over the fate of Jerusalem. What interests me, Sharon said, is to make an effort to ensure the Likud retains power. We will have to resume a serious debate of plans that can bring about genuine peace. Let us listen to his remarks:

[Begin Sharon recording] We will have to immediately launch a serious discussion of other plans, plans that can bring genuine peace; keep Jerusalem in our hands as Israel's eternal capital; and prevent the establishment of a second Palestinian state, other than the one that already exists in Jordan. In addition, the fact a Palestinian state already exists in Jordan and that no other Palestinian state, nor a corridor to such a state, will be established west of the River Jordan—because a Palestinian state already exists in Jordan on 78 percent of the area of Eretz Yisra'el—should repeatedly be stated.

Naturally, the plans we will have to work out will have to guarantee the safety of Jewish lives in Eretz Yisra'el. I hope we all will make a great effort to ensure the continued rule of the Likud—any other possibility is

unimaginably grave—so we can broach the other plans as soon as possible, thereby creating genuine peace, safeguarding Jerusalem, and bringing safety back into Jewish lives. Thank you. [end recording]

Court Rejects Appeal; Vote Set for 15 Mar

TA1403132490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1313 GMT 14 Mar 90

[By Yaron Enosh from the High Court of Justice in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] After almost three hours of being closeted in their chambers, the High Court of Justice's three-judge panel decided to reject the appeal of the Labor Party, MAPAM [United Workers Party], and the Citizens Rights Movement. The political significance of this ruling is the motions of no confidence in the government will be discussed tomorrow rather than today, as had been demanded by the three parties in their appeal.

Shamir Will Not Resign 'No Matter What Happens'

TA1403142290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1415 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said he has no intention of resigning, no matter what happens in the Knesset tomorrow. Shamir was speaking in a meeting with Minister Moshe Qatzav. This is a report filed by our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel.

Reaction to Israeli Political Crisis Reported

Paper Calls Situation 'Game'

JN1303104290 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Mar 90 Second Edition pp 1, 10

[Editorial: "Israeli Slighting of the Arab Mind"]

[Text] As usual, the Israeli Government has entered a new cycle to escape from Shamir's plan, which it itself announced.

Either the Labor Party will withdraw, the coalition will collapse, and then Labor or Likud will form a government with no powers at all; or the two blocs will agree on common denominators, which are numerous anyway, even if not within the present scope of our thoughts.

The government will continue, and efforts to activate the peace process will continue to rotate. Either new elections will take place in which no one knows who will win or lose, and then the next government will be formed, which naturally will be a merciless Zionist government with no hope of achieving much or little.

This game, through which Israel scorns the Arab mind, has become crystal- clear, because it is a cheap game one cannot linger over too long.

If we claim to be peace-lovers, we must be strong because the peace of the oppressed is not suitable for us at this historic stage, in which we must retrieve our rights and preserve every grain of our pure soil.

Israel does not want peace. In fact, it imposes on us, either directly or through mediations, initiatives, which very mildly can be described as a joke, because they will lead to nothing but further concessions from the Arab side.

Does Israel want us to cancel our existence so its government can go on existing?

It is sad yet funny that we continue to run after the mirage, because peace cannot come from Israel. The peace Israel will agree to will be everything but the peace required by the Arabs.

Let us look for other ways and means if we are pushed for peace at this stage; otherwise, let us leave the subject for future generations.

Al-Masri on Likud, Labor, U.S.

JN1303202890 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The Israeli coalition government collapsed today as a result of disagreements over U.S. proposals for unprecedented negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

Labor Party Secretary General Mikha Harish said Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir fired Shim'on Peres, leader of the party, deputy prime minister, and finance minister, at the beginning of the Israeli Cabinet meeting this morning. [passage omitted]

Here in Amman, Mr. Tahir al-Masri, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the House of Repesentatives, and Mr. Ghazi al-Sa'di, director of the al-Jalil House for Palestinian Studies, have spoken to our political correspondent, Salim 'Ali Dhiyab:

[Begin recording] [Al-Masri] The situation in the Israeli Cabinet and in Israeli politics is moving toward new Israeli elections before their constitutionally scheduled time. No doubt this will mean additional procrastination on the part of Israel toward the peace settlement and the proposed solutions. This will add to the complexity of the situation in the region. We now know, however, that the government is about to resign. There are intensive consultations among the parties on the nature of the next government—if they manage to reach agreement.

i believe Shamir will not be able to form a government composed of the Likud and the religious parties. This also applies to the Labor Party, because the bone of contention—namely, the peace process—is too big for any minority-based government to handle. The important factor, however, is the U.S. one. During the last few weeks, we have seen the covert or indirect U.S. role, whether through Yitzhaq Rabin, the Labor Party in general, or sometimes even through Arens, who recently visited the United States, in the current developments. Much, therefore, depends on what the United States wants and on the extent to which the United States will encourage the Labor Party and pressure Israel to accept the proposals, particularly Baker's plan.

[Thiyab] So Israel does not want even if the Labor Party assumes power? [sentence as heard]

[Al-Masri] If the Labor Party assumes power, the situation might be different. But as I explained to you, the Labor Party will rule by a majority of one vote only and will be hostage to the right-wing religious parties. Any Knesset member or any small party, irrespective of the number of its representatives in the Knesset, will hold the balance regarding the survival of the government. The subject of negotiations with the Palestinians and movement toward peace is very important and serious as far as Israel is concerned. A narrow-based government cannot last long, nor can it make decisions in this respect. [passage omitted] [end recording]

U.S. Policy 'Tempted' Shamir

JN1403100590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Mar 90 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "The Last Act of Shamir's Play"]

[Text] The chaotic collapse of the Israeli coalition government represents the last act of a boring play in which Yitzhaq Shamir has played, throughout 10 months, the role of protagonist without being able, during any act of

the play—whose end is known in advance—to claim the applause of even a handful of the audience, or even to arouse their interest.

The end of the partnership of the two major parties in Israel dealt a mortal blow to all the efforts, offices, contacts, and moves of the United States during the past long months, through what has been known as the Baker plan, which, in turn, was based on Yitzhaq Shamir's plan concerning elections in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Although there has been international semi-unanimity that Shamir's plan, proposed on 14 May, has only been a misleading maneuver aimed at buying time and diverting attention from the policy of suppressing the popular Palestinian intifadah, the U.S. Administration, which is seeking a diplomacy of its own in the Middle East, chose to side with Shamir's plan and regard it the fulcrum of its policy in the region.

Despite all evidence and indications available to the U.S. decisionmaker on Shamir's intentions and delaying plans, James Baker will not see the striking facts and artificial obstacles Shamir persistently has placed in the path of the peace process until the Likud leader says frankly: No to the U.S. Baker plan.

There is no doubt the U.S. Administration's lenient, tolerant policy toward the intransigent, rejectionist, and impossible Israeli stands has tempted Yitzhaq Shamir to continue with this malicious maneuver, to the extent of dismissing his deputy from the government, thus making an unprecedented move in Israeli political life by challenging his partners in power, let alone the challenge to the U.S. Administration itself.

Today, after all these developments in the Israeli political theater—including the collapse of the coalition government that has existed since 1948—observers are looking toward Washington to know the possible U.S. diplomatic reply to this long chain of Shamirist challenges, and to see whether or not the Bush administration is able to reassess its pathetic Middle East policy, and then abandon the blandishing and tolerant policy toward the most extremist Zionists.

The United States should courageously declare that its policy, which rests on Shamir's misleading plan, has come to an end—as Shamir himself was planning day and night—and that its diplomacy, which has been demonstrated within the context of Baker's plan, has reaped the first failure for the Bush administration. What happened demands unhesitant abandonment of the illusions based on the possibility of putting Shamir and his terrorist gang on the path of peace. This is because this path only can be crossed through an international conference to be attended by all the parties to the Middle East conflict, in addition to the five Security Council permanent member states, in order to reach a just, comprehensive settlement based on the principle of land for peace and the impermissibility of occupying other people's lands by force.

Police 'Beat Up' Protestors at Badran's Office

JN1403110390 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] The Jordanian police today clashed with about 100 demonstrators who besieged Prime Minister Mudar Badran's office in Amman demanding the reinstatement of hundreds of people who had been dismissed from their jobs for political reasons.

Eyewitnesses in Amman say the police beat up a number of the demonstrators, using bludgeons, to prevent them from approaching the main gate of the building.

Meanwhile, Jordanian Interior Minister Salim Masa'idah met with a delegation from among the demonstrators and heard their demands.

'Hard-Liners' Set Conditions To Free Hostages

JN1303163690 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 12 Mar 90 pp 1, 27

[By Ra'id al-Khammar]

[Text] Damascus—AL-QABAS has learned that the hard-liners in Tehran, who possess the strongest card in the matter of Western hostages held in Lebanon, have asked Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani—as one of their conditions to release the hostages gradually—to give concrete guarantees about the future of Hizballah in Lebanon before agreeing to the release of the hostages.

Information obtained by AL-QABAS from sources close to the party leaders noted that the hard-line Iranian leaders handed the Iranian president a list of the guarantees that they are seeking for him to convey to the Americans and to the Syrian leadership. They are particularly seeking these guarantees because Hizballah leaders fear that the release of the hostages will result in a campaign to liquidate the party's leaders in Lebanon and to pursue their supporters and members in Lebanon and throughout the world after losing the strong card that guarantees their safety inside and outside Lebanon.

Also, according to the information, these guarantees will be discussed during the expected visit to Tehran by President Hafiz al-Asad—a visit that has already been postponed several times. The Iranian hard-liners want the Syrian president to reassure them about the future of the party's work in Lebanon in the wake of Western reports about American requests to Syria to liquidate the party after the release of the hostages by entering the southern suburb and Ba'labakk, where the party's major strongholds and bases are located.

The fact is that the hard-liners in Tehran view the Syrian role in Lebanon with disgust, because they believe that Damascus is preventing the establishment of an Islamic republic in part of the Lebanese Republic, and that Syria has struck a deal with the Americans on the future of the fundamentalists in Lebanon and in the Arab world.

In another development, the sources said that when the required guarantees are given, some hostages would be with their families in time for the Easter holidays, and Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, who is held by the Israelis, might return to Lebanon before 'Id al-Fitr.

'Unofficial U.S. Mediators' in Contact With Iran

NC1403102890 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 12 Mar 90 p 5

[Text] The issue of foreign hostages in Lebanon, which has been going on for years, is expected to be resolved within the next few months. Currently there is much clamor in the international media on this issue. AL-SHIRA' was the first to disclose the U.S.-Iranian contacts for a solution to this problem about three months ago.

Unofficial U.S. mediators are conducting these contacts, which are taking place directly with the kidnappers, and they deal with how much money will be paid for the hostages' release. This is taking place after the first stage of secret diplomatic negotiations between the United States and Iran has ended. No details are available about these diplomatic contacts.

The current contacts are focusing on how the hostages will be released and how much money will be paid. This was the case when money was paid for the release of South Korean and French hostages.

An informed source noted that Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite could be the first hostage released. The source explained that current contacts focus on the need to resolve the hostage issue by releasing all the hostages and not only the Americans.

The source affirmed that Washington's statements denying its involvement in the negotiations are designed to prevent any embarrassment resulting from confirming it is negotiating with those whom it calls terrorists. For this reason, it has entrusted this task to persons without official capacity and to whom it has no clear connection.

Ja'ja' Willing To Join Government, Evacuate Beirut

NC1303070590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Today AL-SAFIR published an interview with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja'. He expressed his willingness to join the government if it is expanded or if a national unity government is formed. Ja'ja' stated he does not object to participating in a government with 'Awn. He added that if Gen. 'Awn is to have a way out and join the political process, he must first recognize the legitimate authorities.

Dr Ja'ja' said if the greater Beirut plan is actually implemented equally for all parties, the Lebanese Forces would be willing to be the first to evacuate greater Beirut.

French Envoy Meets 'Awn, Asks for 'Final Stand'

NC1303072090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] French Ambassador Rene Ala secretly visited General 'Awn yesterday, briefed him on the results of his contacts with all Lebanese parties, and asked for 'Awn's final stand. The French ambassador did this on the eve of his departure to Paris to submit a full report there on his contacts with Lebanese leaders on the current crisis.

Sfayr on Restoring 'Legitimacy' to Eastern Area

NC1303091390 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr has said legitimacy must not wait to be invited to impose its authority over all the country. In a press interview published

today, he said that legitimacy must enter the eastern area. This is what we hope will be done after an understanding is reached with the parties concerned so that fighting will not be renewed and further casualties will be recorded.

He noted that the French initiative aims at delivering the eastern area to legitimacy and ending bloodshed.

Sfayr expressed concern about the continuation of tension between the al-Yarzah forces and the Lebanese Forces, and said this atmosphere does not lead to optimism. He said the Vatican does not want the problems to be solved through fighting and bloodshed.

Al-Rasi Departs for Cairo, Views 'Awn Dialogue

NC1003132690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Health Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Rasi left Beirut international airport this morning for Cairo to head Lebanon's delegation to the Arab health ministers conference, which will be held there from 12 to 14 March.

In response to a question before his departure, Minister al-Rasi said any change in the al-Ta'if agreement must take place along with a change on the ground. He said: It is not possible to amend the agreement or argue about any article in it at present. However, it is possible to develop the agreement if the situation on the ground changes.

Answering another question about the legitimate government's readiness to initiate a dialogue with the others in the eastern area, particularly with General Michel 'Awn, Minister al-Rasi said: There is no dialogue. Such an approach should be made by anyone in the eastern area without preconditions. He added: There is a legitimate authority, and the legitimate authority cannot deal with illegitimate figures at present.

Speaking about the Arab health ministers conference, he said: This conference is important because it will discuss the problem of medicine. The problem of medicine does not only exist in Lebanon but in the entire world. My activity in Cairo will not be limited to health and tourism aspects, but I will seize every opportunity to engage in political activity.

Amal Accuses Hizballah of Shelling Villages

NC1203122290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] The Amal Movement today accused the Mohtashemi groups [Hizballah] of exacerbating the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah. A responsible security source in the Amal Movement said that these groups last night and this morning continued to shell the residential neighborhoods in Humin al-Tahta, Humin al-Fawqa, Jarju', Sarba, Kafr Hatta, and 'Anqun from their positions in the quarries of Jba', al-Luwayzah, and 'Ayn Bu Siwar, wounding one person and causing damage to many houses.

The source added: The Mohtashemi groups last night tried to infiltrate in the direction of the movement's positions in Jarju'. Our fighters confronted them, forcing them to withdraw after they suffered many casualties.

Amal-Hiballah Fighting Flares Up in Beirut Suburb

NC1303161290 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] We begin the newscast with a security setback involving the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the Burj al-Barajinah area. The security situation in Burj al-Barajinah and al-Awza'i areas flared up at 1400. Machineguns, mortars, RPG-7's, and artillery are being used in the clashes, which led to the closure of the international road at al-Awza'i.

The Arab Syrian troops are contacting the leaders of both parties to defuse the situation and bring it back to normal. A responsible security source in the Amal Movement has accused Hizballah of causing the situation to flare up in the vicinity of the movement's command center in Burj al-Barajinah, prompting the guards manning the center to return fire. The source added that after the Syrian troops had contained the clashes, Hizballah moved the fighting to the al-Awza'i area.

According to reports from the South, limited skirmishes between Amal and Hizballah were reported this morning along the Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines.

Clashes Abate After Syrians Intervene

NC1303182690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The clashes in Beirut's Southern Suburb and al-Awza'i area have abated after the Syrian Arab forces intervened and patrolled the airport-al-Ghubayrah road to restore the situation to normal in the two areas. Foot patrols from the Syrian Arab forces are also patrolling the tense areas in Hayy Farhat and al-Hawzah al-'Ilminyah in Harat Hurayk.

According to security sources, a number of people were killed or wounded and taken to hospitals. [passage omitted]

'Calm' Prevails After 4 Killed

NC1403063290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Calm now prevails in the Southern Suburb, where the Syrian forces are patrolling the area on foot and in vehicles to stabilize the situation. Clashes broke out yesterday afternoon and continued until the evening in the Burj al-Barajinah, al-Awza'i, Shatila camp, Harat Hurayk, al-Musharrafiyah, and Hayy Farhat areas. As a

result, four people were killed and 38 wounded. The al-Awza'i road was blocked, but later it could be used.

Hizballah Official Dismisses Party Differences

NC1203074590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] In an interview with our radio, His Eminence al-Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi has stressed that reports being circulated about differences within Hizballah seek to sow doubt in the souls of the believers and strugglers and undermine their morale. He noted that these plots are the work of the media loyal to global arrogance, which harbors great rancor against Islam.

Regarding the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah, he said a solution to this issue could be found if all parties observe the Damascus agreement, which could serve as the true foundation for resolving all disputes. Unfortunately, he added, this is not how the Amal Movement saw the Damascus agreement. Instead, it launched a propaganda war against the Islamic Republic, which has shown its interest in closing the file on the conflict.

He said the authorities who supervised the Damascus agreement as well as the allegiance by all parties to Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i could serve as guarantees for settling all disputes, either by referring them to the tribunal proposed under the agreement or to the two countries which supervised the agreement.

Regarding the Lebanese situation, al-Musawi said that global arrogance is determined to keep Lebanon as an arena for sedition and international and domestic problems. The Zionist goals could have great influence on events in Lebanon, he added.

Amal Group Clashes With Lahd Militia in South

NC1203183690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] In a statement issued today, the Amal Movement said that at midnight last night one of its groups attacked a position held by agent Lahd's militia in al-Shumariyah. This was the second time the movement had launched such an attack in two days. The group used automatic weapons and rockets in the assault. The strugglers clashed for 10 minutes with the force manning the position. The strugglers set fire to a guard post and destroyed an observation tower which was seen burning. They also killed or injured the personnel manning the position. The groans of the wounded could be heard.

The statement said the occupation forces then illuminated the area with flares and used 82-mm and 120-mm mortars to pound the al-Litani valleys as well as areas and forests in Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, and Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr. The movement stated that a member of the resistance group was slightly wounded during the attack.

Resistance, Israeli Forces Clash in South

NC1403114890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Hizballah sources have reported that an Israeli mechanized unit attempted to advance along the al-Radar line toward Jabal Safi this morning and clashed with Islamic resistance groups. The sources said the two sides engaged in violent clashes with tanks and heavy-caliber machine guns. The clashes continued until noon today. The sources added that at the same time, Israeli warplanes flew over the area.

[(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 0845 GMT on 14 March adds: "Israel warplanes broke the sound barrier during flights in the Lebanese skies a short while ago."]

New Passports To Be Distributed Next Month

NC0903092290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Minister Ilyas al-Khazin disclosed today that new passports are being printed and will be available to the public in a month. He said the old passports will be canceled and that the authorities concerned in all foreign countries will be informed of this measure. He also said that these countries will refuse to receive Lebanese nationals not holding the new passports.

He explained that the reason for this measure is that the old passports had been stolen and could be forged and used by non-Lebanese individuals.

Press on Objectives of Likud, Labor 'Differences'

JN1403075590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Mar 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Greater Israel and the Settlement Illusion," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Although there are several facts to prove that the Zionists are working seriously to establish Greater Israel, some Arab sides still believe that a settlement will soon be reached. These Arab sides base their actions and plans on the illusion that a comprehensive solution will soon be achieved.

The paper bases its assessment on the events that are taking place inside the enemy entity. It stresses that the Israeli stand, including that of the Likud and Ma'arakh, did not change, and that the current differences between Shamir and Peres do not affect the core of the Israeli policy. This is because enemy leaders still reject the principle of full and comprehensive withdrawal from all the occupied territories. They also refuse to recognize the Palestinian people's rights and insist on rejecting the establishment of the Palestinian state. They are seeking, moreover, to activate Jewish emigration and build new settlements in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights.

In light of this situation, TISHRIN calls for redressing the Arab situation so that it can become strong and cohesive in the equation of the Arab-Zionist conflict and in confronting the enemy's expansionist and aggressive ambitions.

In a news analysis on the same subject, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The collapse of the coalition government between the Likud and Ma'arakh provides several clues about the game of political struggle in Israel, and Israel's main game, which observers call the battle to gain more time to evade its responsibility of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region, to quell the intifadah, and intensify efforts to settle the new immigrants.

In light of this, the declared differences between Likud and Ma'arakh, and even within the same party, constitute a struggle over power. This game has been going on since the establishment of the enemy entity in Palestine.

Communist Party Condemns U.S. 'Threats' to Libya

JN1303185690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1552 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Damascus, 13 Mar (SANA)—The Syrian Communist Party has condemned U.S. threats to the Libyan Jamahiriyah, saying that U.S. imperialism's aggressive nature will not change.

A statement issued by the Communist Party here today says the U.S. Administration continues to conduct a policy of state terrorism, to violate all international laws and norms, and to threaten the future of nations.

The statement adds that if the United States were truly concerned about peace and security in the region, it would have worked sincerely to resolve the Middle East crisis in accordance with UN resolutions, and would have facilitated the convocation of an international conference and stopped supplying Israel with weapons and financial aid instead of encouraging it and ignoring its nuclear and chemical armament.

U.S. 'Reluctance' To Pressure Israel Criticized

JN1203163090 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 6 Mar 90 p 2

["News analysis" by Jubarah al-Barghuthi]

[Text] John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Europe and Middle East affairs [title as published], has discussed at some length U.S. efforts to promote peace in the Middle East, noting that U.S. interests are best served by a strong Israel, and rejoicing at the exodus of Soviet Jews. He also underscored continued U.S. rejection of the notion of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian territory.

Testifying before the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, John Kelly said peace in the region is vital to an uninterrupted flow of Arab oil to the United States.

Kelly said: Arab oil accounts for 28 percent of U.S. imports of crude oil, and by the year 2000 it is projected to go up to 37 percent. He recalled the 1973 Arab oil embargo, a repeat of which he deemed unlikely in light of what he called ongoing U.S. efforts to promote a peace settlement in the region.

The U.S. official has thus explained the reasons why the United States is interested in a Middle East peace, but failed to pay attention to how this will affect the Arabs. Arab investments in U.S. banks are estimated at $500 billion, and annual Arab imports from the United States are worth no less than $20 billion. Add to that thousands of jobs held by Americans in the Arab oil industry and other sectors.

Therefore, stability in the Middle East is compatible with American interests, especially given that the Israeli stick used by the Americans against the Arabs has proved a failure. A massive show of U.S.-Israeli force failed to confirm the 17 May agreement that was at variance with the best interests of Lebanon. Having failed in their bid to set up separate peace between Israel and Arab states using the Israeli stick, the Americans are beginning to reconsider. It may be safely said that there has been something of a shift in standard American postures. Whereas until fairly recently no U.S. official could conceivably criticize Israel, now a few even go beyond that. State Secretary James Baker has made statements,

the likes of which were never uttered by Shultz, Kissinger, or Haig. John Kelly has criticized the settling of Jewish immigrants in the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan Heights. And Senator Robert Dole called for cutting back U.S. aid to Israel, thus breaking a taboo. Compared to standing American policy planks that produced a strategic partnership and nuclear and star cooperation between Israel and the United States, these amount to a change of position.

But as long as the United States continues to value what it calls the security of Israel to the exclusion of Arab security interests and furnish Israel's arsenal with the most up-to-date military equipment, such adjustments remain inadequate. In other words, the chances of the United States brokering an Arab-Israeli settlement are rendered slim by a lack of U.S. neutrality and Washington's lopsided commitment to Israel. The procrastination and foot- dragging of Shamir and his fascist clique as well as their defiance of U.S. efforts to defuse Middle East tension have been abetted by the depth of the U.S. commitment to Israel.

According to the findings of a team of experts of the Washington Institute, the geostrategic consequences of a fresh Arab-Israeli war for the United States far outweigh the Palestinian intifadah. With an increasing flow of arms to the Middle East, prospects for a new flare-up have become even more real. The shift in U.S. policy plans has been prompted by the cautionary note in this report. But the shift has not been sufficient to favor peace. The United States has so indulged Israel and Zionism that these two have been made partners in American decisionmaking—so much so that the U.S. war on drugs has glossed over Israel's role in the narcotics trade in the United States itself.

U.S. reluctance to put pressure on Israel may well lead to the consequences which the Washington report warned against—in which case only the United States will be held responsible for an uncontrollable explosion.

What are the implications of settling a quarter-million immigrant Jews in Jerusalem and in the West Bank and Gaza? Even assuming that the war will not be initiated by the Arabs, Israel will have to start one to relieve the economic and social pressures of absorbing the massive wave of immigrants. The integration of the new immigrants will be only possible through Israel's tactics of war and aggression. Drafting hundreds of the new arrivals into the border police and other military and paramilitary bands like the Nahal ahead of integrating them into the Army serves as an illustration. According to an IMF report, Israel is headed for dire economic straits, as the cost to the Israeli treasury of accommodating the new immigrants will be approximately $15 billion. Perhaps this explains the latest devaluation of the Israeli currency. Wars are by-products of economic crises, and the United States will bear sole responsibility since it is giving its pro-Israeli zeal precedence over its efforts on behalf of peace.

Afghanistan

'Soviet Planes' Said To Participate in Coup

BK1403003690 Hong Kong AFP in English 2029 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Islamabad, March 13 (AFP)—The mastermind of last week's abortive coup in Afghanistan said Tuesday [13 March] that the putsch was directed "against the Soviet Union," which he said responded with military support for President Najibullah.

General Shahnawaz Tanay told the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) that Mr. Najibullah was aware of the coup plan, "so he had taken refuge in the Soviet Embassy along with Russian advisors and from there they conducted the military units."

During the coup attempt, Pakistan, which allows U.S. aid to transit to the Afghan resistance, said that Mr. Najibullah was running the country "from an embassy he can trust."

The sacked defense minister said, "the coup d'etat was completely launched against the Soviets, so they were assisting Najib, and we were backed by infantry and air forces." Gen. Tanay's forces "were operating the coup plans from the Defense Ministry (in Kabul)," he said. "From there we made contacts with local headquarters situated in Baghram Air Base (north of Kabul)," which sent planes on bombing missions to Kabul seeking Najibullah loyalist positions, he added.

ANA, closely linked with the mujahidin faction led by Golbuddin Hekmatyar, reported that Soviet planes were involved in the fighting last Wednesday, the day after the coup was launched.

But Mr. Najibullah, speaking to reporters Thursday in the Foreign Ministry's conference hall, stressed that the failed coup, which he described as a well-planned conspiracy between Mr. Hekmatyar and Gen. Tanay, had been quashed without any outside assistance.

Gen. Tanay said, "The direct attack by Soviet jets and bombing of our headquarters disrupted the radio contacts between us and our military units in different parts of Afghanistan." He acknowledged that only "some mujahidin commanders around Kabul Province cooperated with us," but warned that "we still have many supporters in the different military units and garrisons of Afghanistan."

Gen. Tanay came to Pakistan on Wednesday evening, but apparently has returned since to Afghanistan, Western diplomats here say.

Other diplomats said that the renegade general, who heads an anti-Najibullah faction of the ruling party, was well acquainted with his country's defense structures and could now join forces with Mr. H3kmatyar, leader of the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami faction.

Jamiyat's Rabbani Calls Hekmatyar 'Irresponsible'

BK1403110690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1029 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Islamabad, March 14 (AFP)—The chief of one of the seven Afghan resistance groups making up the Pakistan-backed interim government Wednesday [14 March] slammed fundamentalist rebel leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar as "irresponsible."

In an interview with the resistance-controlled MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] press service, Jamiat-e Eslami chief Burhanuddin Rabbani criticized the "political backing" granted by "some of the mujahidin parties" to last week's coup attempt in Kabul.

Without mentioning Mr. Hekmatyar by name, he said the support granted to ousted Defense Minister Shahnawaz Tanay, who led last week's coup, was "not correct." He categorically rejected Mr. Hekmatyar's frequently voiced proposal to form a "revolutionary council" with Afghan Government officers opposed to President Najibullah. "We firmly reject any such move about the formation of the revolutionary council jointly with the communists. This is a totally irresponsible proposal," he said. He added that those who supported Mr. Hekmatyar's proposal were "mistaken" and that it would "amount to inflicting a severe blow on the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan."

Mr. Rabbani, who is linked to several influential field commanders operating in Afghanistan, such as Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Isma'il Khan, renewed his call for the mujahidin to "intensify their operations" and to urge Kabul's rival government factions to surrender. He dismissed as "baseless propaganda" General Tanay's pledges to continue the fight against the Kabul regime. "He does not have any place among the people," Mr. Rabbani said.

The U.S.-backed mujahidin Afghan Interim Government officially dissociated itself on March 7 from the coup, which it described as a "showdown between two wings within the ruling Communist Party in Kabul." But Mr. Hekmatyar publicly backed Gen. Tanay and called on all the resistance leaders to unite behind the military rebellion, which he said could lead to the creation of an "Islamic government." All of the resistance factions have privately criticized Mr. Hekmatyar's position.

Islamabad's Inter-Services Intelligence Agency joined Mr. Hekmatyar in urging support for the foiled coup, diplomats and resistance sources in Peshawar said.

Envoy to PDRY Allegedly Involved in Coup Attempt

JN1303180290 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 12 Mar 90 p 1

[By Mahbub 'Ali]

[Text] Aden—Diplomatic sources in Aden have said that Asadollah Sarwari, Afghanistan's ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], who is accused of involvement in the abortive coup attempt against Afghan President Najibullah's regime, has been absent from Aden since January [1990]. The sources said he is likely to be in Kabul and to have been involved in planning the coup attempt.

The sources pointed out that Sarwari is considered a ranking military figure and that he held the posts of deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Council and deputy prime minister in the government of former Afghan President Babrak Karmal. The source added that he was a prominent opponent of Najibullah's regime, and was therefore kept away from Kabul and appointed his country's ambassador to the PDRY.

'Mammoth' Rally in Kabul Condemns Abortive Coup

LD1403093590 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 12, BAKHTAR—Tens of thousands of Kabul citizens including the clergymen, elderlies, women, youth, members of political and social organisations and state employees in a mammoth rally held today here at national stadium severely condemned the abortive coup of Shahnawaz-Golbuddin and their criminal clique which caused the death of a number of our countrymen and losses of millions of Afghans.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that the participants at the rally expressed their all-sides readiness in thwarting any kind of conspiracies to be staged by the enemies.

Addressing the rally, Da'ud Razmyar, secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] exposed the ominous essence of the abortive coup of Shahnawaz-Tanay [as received] which was staged by Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence, ISI. He added that the fiasco faces by Shahnawaz-Golbuddin was a telling historical lesson to Pakistani military-men, White House leaders and the others who were acting against the Republic of Afghanistan knowingly or unknowingly.

Later, representatives of the PDPA political allies such as young [words indistinct] organisation of Afghanistan, revolutionary organisation of the working people of Afghanistan, organisation of the working people of Afghanistan, Islamic Party of Afghanistan and Ansarullah Union talked on behalf of their organisations and severely condemned Shahnawaz-Golbuddin abortive coup. They, in their speeches, demanded that the organisers of the unsuccessful coup d'etat must be duly punished as national traitors. They also expressed their readiness in thwarting any conspiracy of the domestic and foreign enemies of Afghanistan.

The gathering ended with praying for restoration of peace, calm and prosperity to Afghanistan and ending of war from the war-weary Afghan society.

Rebels' Internecine Fighting in Provinces Noted

LD1403092190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0533 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 13, BAKHTAR—Severe armed clashes took place between the Rabbani-Golbuddin extremist rival groups in the suburbs of Kabul and Paktia Provinces recently.

The BAKHTAR correspondents reported that during the revengeful clashes the sides used heavy armaments against each other tens of extremists (including two of their ringleaders) were killed and score other wounded. [sentence as received]

According to another report 17 extremists, including three of their ringleaders, were killed and 13 others wounded during the clashes occurred between the Golbuddin and Sayyaf extremist groups in the Baghlan and Helmand Provinces lately. The clashes which triggered over the distribution of properties looted from the civilians have caused heavy material losses to the sides as well.

Najibullah Promotes Brigadiers to Major Generals

LD1303212190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] In line with a decree by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, the following brigadier generals of the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces have been promoted to the rank of major general for their outstanding performances and active participation in the Golbuddin-Shahnawaz foiled coup d'etat.

1. Hero of the Republic of Afghanistan Brigadier General 'Abdul Rashid Dostem, son of Rahim.
2. Brigadier General 'Abdul Moqim Paykar, son of 'Abdul Qayom.
3. Brigadier General Muhammad Asem, son of Ghulam Rahman.
4. Brigadier General Asadullah, son of Malek Khan.
5. Brigadier General Muhammad 'Isa, son of 'Abdul Wakil.
6. Brigadier General 'Abdul Razaq, son of Abdul Wahab.
7. Brigadier General 'Abdus Satar, son of Muhammad Yusof.
8. Brigadier General 'Ali Muhammad Aqtash, son of 'Abdul Qados.
9. Brigadier General Atiqullah Amarkheyi, son of Mir Afzal.
10. Brigadier General Marjan, son of Sultan Jan.
11. Brigadier General Amir Muhammad, son of Wali Muhammad.
12. Brigadier General 'Aziz Hassan, son of Muhammad 'Ali.
13. Brigadier General Asadullah Payam, son of Joma Gul.
14. Brigadier General Gulbahar, son of Fateh Muhammad.

15. Brigadier General 'Abdul Ghafar Hamid, son of 'Abdul Wahid.
16. Brigadier General Muhammad Tariq, son of Muhammad 'Ali.
17. Brigadier General Sayyed Jan, son of Muhammad Sharif.

Awards April Revolution Medals

LD1303214890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] In line with a decree by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, the following people have been awarded the medal of the April Revolution for their outstanding services and active participation in foiling the Shahnawaz-Golbuddin coup attempt:
Minister of Internal Affairs Raz Muhammad Paktin;
Major General 'Abdul Haq 'Ulumi, secretary of the Supreme Council for the Defense of the Homeland;
Major General 'Abdul Baqi, head of the Defense and National Security Department of the Presidency;
Major General Rahmatullah Rafi, son of 'Abdorra'uf;
Major General Sayyedd Masom, son of Sayyed Ghulam Nabi.

Bangladesh

Firearms Collected Before 'Crucial' Polls

BK1303024690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0230 GMT 13 Mar 90

[By Golam Tahaboor]

[Text] Dhaka, March 13 (AFP)—Local officials here have asked people to turn in their firearms ahead of Bangladesh's crucial local elections, seen as a personal test for President Hussain Mohammad Ershad. The order came in an official statement that said people with licensed firearms should deposit them at the nearest police station prior to the start Wednesday [14 March] of the staggered 12-day polling for the chairmanships of all but 34 of the country's 460 sub-districts.

The last-minute announcement gave owners just 24 hours to deposit their weapons in a move the statement said had been taken "to ensure fair, free and peaceful" elections.

Police gave no figure for the number of licensed firearms in this politically volatile nation of 110 million, where most previous polls have been marred by violence and major opposition boycotts.

The statement came amid press reports that at least one person was killed, 145 others injured and several makeshift campaign camps for candidates set on fire and ransacked by political opponents in sporadic violence since the beginning of the month. In the latest reported incident in northeastern Sylhet Town, seven supporters of a candidate were hurt after their campaign office was stormed by rival activists. Monday, in western Pabna Town, an election rally was attacked and bombed, allegedly by supporters of a rival candidate, leaving a young activist dead and several others injured.

Tight security is in place to ensure law and order is maintained during the elections, involving an estimated 305,000 members of the security forces, including armed police and the paramilitary Bangladesh rifles.

Despite repeated public assurances by Mr. Ershad and his government that the polls would be free, fair and peaceful, opposition spokesmen and the media have expressed growing doubts.

The five-yearly sub-district elections are normally held on a non-party basis, but polling this time has become an indirect contest between Mr. Ershad's ruling Jatiya Party and major opposition groups.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Begum Khaleda Zia, the pro-Moscow Communist Party of Bangladesh, and the rightist Jamaat-i-Islami are all backing their own candidates.

The opposition groups, which have been campaigning for Mr. Ershad's resignation since he came to power in a bloodless 1982 coup, boycotted the last sub-district elections in 1985 amid calls for a general strike. They have repeatedly said that no poll could be fair or impartial with Mr. Ershad in power, but cautiously agreed to take part in this poll. Free elections unmarred by violence would increase Mr. Ershad's standing, particularly among aid donor countries in the west, which wants to see democracy and free elections in Bangladesh.

Dhaka's opposition SANGBAD DAILY said in a long report Monday that despite public posturing by government leaders, some recent activities of government ministers and ruling party leaders had increased doubts about the poll. SANGBAD said ministers had instructions to go to their home districts and support government-backed candidates. It also alleged that despite earlier commitments, the government had shown its indifference towards domestic and foreign observer groups who wa nt to monitor the elections.

A total of 55.5 million voters are expected to choose from the list of 2,394 candidates in 426 sub-districts, election officials said. In each of the 22,100 poll centres, 17 security guards would be posted, compared to only 12 during the last opposition-boycotted elections in March 1988, they said.

Meanwhile, a 48-hour ban against formal campaigning went into effect at midnight Monday in the first group of 61 sub-districts where polling is scheduled for Wednesday.

Information Cooperation Accord Signed With DPRK

BK1203145590 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] An agreement on cooperation in the field of information between Bangladesh and North Korea was signed in Dhaka Monday [12 March]. The agreement provides for mutual exchange of visits of media delegation and personnel and exchange of publications and information materials for radio and television broadcasts and documentary films and video cassettes between the two countries.

Information Secretary Syed Ahmad and North Korea's Deputy Chairman of Information Committee (Song Pong-sun) signed the agreement.

India

Singh Warns Pakistan Against 'Misadventure'

BK1303131390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] The prime minister has warned Pakistan against any misadventure in Jammu and Kashmir. If it attempts it, India will react not only swiftly but also decisively.

Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh was intervening in a day-long special discussion on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir in the Lok Sabha this evening. The prime minister made it clear that India has the will and the capacity to defend its unity and integrity. Any misadventure by Pakistan will prove costly to that country. Mr. V.P. Singh reiterated New Delhi's willingness to improve relations with Pakistan but cautioned that such a feeling should not be misunderstood as our weakness. He, however, admitted that interference by Pakistan is not the sole cause of the present situation in the state. Describing the situation in Jammu and Kashmir as an administrative and political challenge, the prime minister said it is also in some way a military challenge. We have to move on all fronts and be ready. The prime minister said that the government is clear about initiating a political process not only in Delhi but also in Kashmir. A mechanism has to be evolved. He said it would be the government's endeavor to promote cooperation and understanding among various parties on different issues. Although differences and perceptions are there, all parties have shown a united approach on Kashmir. There is encouragement and a will and confidence to go ahead, Mr. V.P. Singh added.

Reports of the prime minister's speech are still coming in.

Houses Hold Special Discussions on Kashmir

Details of Lok Sabha Debate

BK1303163490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] In an extraordinary show of unanimity, the Lok Sabha called upon all sections of people to sink their ideological and political differences and work unitedly for defending the country's unity and integrity. The House adopted a motion at the end of a day-long special discussion on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The motion expressed the members' conviction that political activity in the state must be revived within the framework of our democratic and secular polity. The House urged the misguided persons in the Kashmir Valley to abjure violence and take recourse to peaceful ways for the redressal of their grievances. For this, abundant opportunities exist within the Constitution. The motion was moved by Mr. Vasant Sathe, Congress-I, on his behalf and on behalf of the minister in charge of Kashmir affairs, Mr. George Fernandez. It said no such sinister designs shall be permitted to succeed, and secession and subversion against the rule of law at no cost will be allowed in our democratic system.

Intervening in a special discussion on Kashmir in the house, the prime minister warned Pakistan that India will react swiftly and decisively in case Islamabad embarks upon any misadventure in Jammu and Kashmir. Emphasizing that any such adventure will prove costly, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh asserted that India has the will and the capacity to defend its unity and independence.

Political parties, brushing aside their differences, joined the prime minister in condemning outside interference in the Kashmir Valley.

Earlier, the House suspended the question hour to discuss the issue following an opposition demand. In a statement, the home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, reiterated the government's commitment to maintain territorial unity and the integrity of the country and deal firmly with subversives and secessionists.

In his brief but spirited intervention, Mr. V.P. Singh pointed out that ongoing efforts to improve relations with Pakistan should not be misunderstood as weakness. He assured the members that active diplomatic efforts will continue to dispel any disinformation spread by Islamabad among the world community. Mr. V.P. Singh, however, made it clear that external forces are alone not responsible for the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. He said multiple action, including restoration of the political process and establishing law and order, will have to be taken up. The prime minister again made it clear that Article 370 of the Constitution will continue.

Later, responding to a suggestion by the leader of the opposition, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, he indicated that he may visit Kashmir in the near future to personally assess the situation.

In his intervention, the minister in charge of Kashmir affairs, Mr. George Fernandez, called for restarting political activity in the valley before the political process can be restored. He wanted a collective effort by all parties at the ground-level to combat secessionist elements.

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi demanded that the legislature in Jammu and Kashmir should be revived and an effective mechanism evolved for the redressal of the people's grievances. He contended that the people in the state have been alienated from the administration and urgent steps are needed to bridge the rift.

Replying to the debate, the home minister announced that an all-party conference will be convened within a week as a follow up to the decisions taken at the last meeting of major political parties. He justified the appointment of Mr. Jag Mohan as the governor of the state and said even Dr. Farooq Abdullah had commended the administrative abilities of the governor. Mufti Sayeed said that the government will take all necessary steps to tackle unemployment and encourage tourism in the state. He said the paramilitary forces have been asked to exercise the utmost restraint while dealing with the situation in the valley. As the home minister stood up to reply, the members of the National Conference objected saying that the reply should only come from the minister in charge of Kashmir. Later, they walked out in protest.

During the daylong debate, members urged the government for further political initiative on Kashmir.

Home Minister Addresses Rajya Sabha

BK1403082790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] The home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, today cautioned Pakistan against showing undue interest in the internal affairs of India. He said continued assistance to the secessionist elements in the Kashmir Valley in a vigorous manner is a cause of grave concern to us.

Initiating the special discussion on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir in the Rajya Sabha today, Mufti said India has concrete evidence regarding assistance in the shape of arms, (?instigation) and guidance being received by the militants from across the border. Further attempts to internationalize the issue has added a new dimension to the situation.

The House suspended the question hour to take up the special discussion. The notice for motion of suspension of the question hour was given by Mr. M.C.Bhandari, Congress-I, and two of his party colleagues. The treasury benches agreed to take up the discussion immediately.

The home minister said determined efforts are being made to restore the authority of the state and bring back normalcy. Administrative machinery and the intelligence network have been toned up. Steps have been taken to strengthen vigil on the borders and the presence of central paramilitary forces in the state has been augmented.

Clarification of Ershad's Kashmir Remarks Sought

BK1203152990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] India has asked Bangladesh to clarify whether the reported remarks of the president, Mr. H.M. Ershad, over the Kashmir issue is a shift in its earlier stand of studied neutrality.

An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the Indian high commissioner in Dhaka, Mr. K. Srinivasan, had taken up the matter with the Bangladeshi foreign minister, Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmud. The Indian high commissioner pointed out to the Bangladeshi authorities that only last month they had conveyed to the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, in Dhaka that the Kashmir issue should be settled by India and Pakistan bilaterally.

Editorial: UN Observers Should Leave Kashmir

BK1303100590 Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Mar 90 p 4

[Editorial: "UN Group in Kashmir"]

[Text] The UN Military Observer in Srinagar was talking out of turn when he told a group of agitators at his office that a top UN official would visit the State capital on March 7 to assess the current situation in the Kashmir Valley. The spokesman of the foreign office did well to describe this as a transgression. It has been stated that the Government may ask the UN to wind up the observer group's headquarters at Srinagar. India indeed had made its position clear within the UN, maintaining that, after the Simla accord and the change in the Line of Actual Control in Kashmir, the UN Group set up in 1949 had lost its justification and locus standi. Following this India has not reported any border incidents to the UN group (UNMOGIP) [United Nations Military Observers Group on India and Pakistan]. But this country, it seems, omitted to take the logical next step of asking the UN to end its operations in relation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. This diplomatic coyness, or the desire not to create awkward situations for a friendly international body, is not to be defended. The Ministry of External Affairs should have clarified the matter a long time ago. Even within its original charter the UNMOGIP had no business to be interfering in internal, civil and political developments in Jammu and Kashmir, much less act as an international policeman or ombudsman as the observer may now be trying to do. The group came into being through a security council decision of 1948 setting up a UN Commission for India

and Pakistan after India complained of the Pakistani invasion of the State which had ceded to India in 1947. The commission was wound up in 1951, but the military group remained. The group's presence did not prevent skirmishes nor the 1965 and 1971 wars. The Simla agreement between India and Pakistan decided on the new line of control and resolved to settle all matters by bilateral discussion. India has held since then that the group has no role in relation to the Line of Actual Control. The group's activities after 1971 have been curiously confined to the India side. The climate in Srinagar may be salubrious and India a hospitable posting, but it is time India told the UN to withdraw the group.

Kashmiri Notable Demands Army's Withdrawal

BK1303081690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0741 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Srinagar, India, March 13 (AFP)—A leading Kashmiri politician-priest, Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq, demanded Tuesday [13 March] the withdrawal of the Indian army from Kashmir and the restoration of human rights in this northern state.

Addressing a congregation of some 20,000 in Srinagar's Jama Masjid, or main mosque, during a night-long Islamic festival, Mr. Farooq called for an immediate withdrawal of troops from the city, the hub of a pro-independence drive.

"The Indian Government should give up their policy of suppression and initiate sincere efforts to solve the Kashmir issue and the present day-to-day situation through amicable methods rather than the use of force," the Muslim high priest said.

The Kashmir administration relaxed a marathon curfew late Monday [12 March] to allow Muslims to celebrate Shab-i-Barat [a Muslim festival] at the Jama Masjid and the festivities continued throughout the night with calls for the state's liberation from Indian rule.

Condemning the paramilitary Border Security Force's (BSF) new powers to conduct house searches, Mr. Farooq charged that the troops had misbehaved with Muslim women and children during searches.

He urged New Delhi to restore human rights to the people of Kashmir.

"The continous curfew restrictions have led to hardship and miseries and the economy of the state has been totally shattered," the priest said.

Mr. Farooq, who also heads an influential party called the Awami Action Committee, asked the people to remain united against alleged conspiracies aimed at remain united against alleged conspiracies aimed at distorting the current campaign into a Hindu-Muslim conflict.

More than 40,000 Hindus are believed to have fled the Kashmir valley in India's only Muslim-dominated state after the pro-independence campaign here turned bloody in the past three months.

Several hundred Muslim women in the large mosque supported his call to withdraw the army and paramilitary forces, Mr. Farooq said later, adding they also protested alleged incidents of troops molesting girls.

More than 60,000 security and police personnel have been deployed in Kashmir's 28 large and medium towns now under curfew, imposed 11 days ago following clashes in Srinagar that left 34 people dead and over 100 injured.

Mr. Farooq declined to comment on New Delhi's recent appointment of Federal Railways Minister George Fernandes as a special minister for Kashmir, saying that Kashmiris wanted more information before reacting.

Mr. Fernandes is scheduled to visit Kashmir after the presentation of the railway budget in parliament, sources here say.

Muslims Urge Delhi To Break Ties With Pakistan

BK1403033690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Five Muslim organizations have urged the center to snap diplomatic and commercial ties with Pakistan till Islamabad stops interfering in the internal affairs of our country. In a statement issued in New Delhi, these organizations said that Pakistan is encouraging separatist forces in Kashmir to disrupt the unity and integrity of the country. The organizations are the Indian Muslim Youth Conference, Muslims for Progress, Muslim Mahila Mandal [Women's Federation], Muslimin-i-Hind [Muslims of India], and Muslim Sangharsh Vahini [Struggle Force].

Terrorist Organization Chief Reportedly Killed

BK0903160190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] The self-styled chief of the so-called Khalistan Liberation Force, Gurdeep Singh Mahiyala, and the Panthic [Sikh religious] Committee member, Dalwinder Singh, were killed in a BSF [Border Security Force] encounter on the India-Pakistan border in December [as heard] last. This was disclosed by the inspector general of the BSF, Mr Prakasha Singh, in Amritsar today.

In Rajasthan, the Border Security Force made a big seizure of arms and ammunition this evening at Anupgarh area of Ganganagar District, 4 km from the international border. The seizure include 16 AK-47 rifles, 40 national border. The seizure include 16 AK-47 rifles, 40 detonators, 34 HT [expansion unknown] bombs, 12 rockets, and some incriminating documents.

Iran

Editorial Comments on Syrian Ties, Hostages

NC1303102290 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 6 Mar 90 pp 2, 7

[Editorial: "Common Enemies, Common Policies"]

[Text] Iran's Foreign Ministry Director General for Middle East Mahmud Hashemi, carrying a message from Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar', is currently visiting Damascus.

The Iranian official's presence in the Syrian capital against a backdrop of prevalent rumors on a possible release of Western hostages in Lebanon has triggered a juggernaut of sensational headlines coming in spate from the mass media.

But the visit should indeed surprise no one aware of the very cordial ties established between Tehran and Damascus from the very beginning of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In fact the two nations' relations are cemented to the point that they are rather invulnerable to political vagaries and natural differences in views and approaches to certain issues.

There are many bonds that tie Tehran and Damascus. One is a list of common enemies and Iran and Syria should be in constant contact and consultation to exchange views over significant regional issues.

Besides, support for Islamic and popular forces in Lebanon struggling against political Maronite plots and Israeli threats constitute common points in both countries' foreign policies.

In fact what the rebellious General 'Awn is trying to impose on Lebanon with the massive support he is getting especially from Iraq and France is also among the main issues that bring Tehran's and Damascus' Lebanon policy ever closer.

Iran knows and accepts that the might of Lebanon's Islamic and popular forces wholly depend on the Syrian power in that region. If Syria ever succumbs to pressure from regional conservative governments and pulls back from Lebanon, it will be Lebanese Islamic and popular forces which will bear the brunt and will have to pay the price.

In the same breath it will be militant Lebanese groups which will be steamrolled should Damascus cave in to pressures from Western powers and bullying Zionist policies.

The strategic importance of Syria's lining up against Israel is to the point that the Islamic Republic will be suffering a big blow to its foreign policy if Syria joins the submissive club of countries that have accepted the Camp David Accords.

It is also out of such an understanding that Damascus leaders too are well cognizant of Tehran's position vis-a-vis its enemies.

Such a far-reaching understanding then makes frequent visits of Iran-Syrian officials to one anothers' capital a very normal thing. As such the type of sensation the Western media have raised over Mahmud Hashemi's visit to Damascus is much too fancied.

In the same context there will soon be a visit to Tehran of Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', to be followed by no less a figure than President al-Asad himself to be a guest of his Iranian counterpart. Such a visit will certainly take the already very cordial ties between the two countries to still a higher level.

Mo'ayeri: Iraqi Occupation Cannot Be Tolerated

LD1303130790 Tehran IRNA in English 1140 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., March 13, IRNA—Political officials of the country should enjoy 'a powerful military backing' in order to succeed in their efforts for full enforcement of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, said Presidential Advisor 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri here Monday.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's advisor for international affairs also stressed that alongside political efforts for implementation of the resolution, country's defence power and economy should be strengthened and reconstruction work be carried out seriously.

Mo'ayeri who was addressing the eighth gathering of commanders and officials of military units of Ahvaz referred to Iraq's obstruction of implementation of the resolution and stressed that Iran will not accept plans presented to the U.N. by the Baghdad regime. This is because, he said, under various pretexts Iraq is after materializing its vain goals.

The presidential advisor stressing the Islamic Republic can no longer tolerate occupation of its territories by Iraq, said, "although we continue our political and diplomatic efforts (in this regard), we believe the last word is said by the one who is more powerful."

Besharati Comments on Soviet Mediation Offer

LD1403112590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Our colleague has interviewed brother Besharati, our country's honorable deputy foreign minister, on evaluation of the peace talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq for implementation of Resolution 598 and the proposal of the USSR Government to mediate for this purpose. Let us listen to this interview together.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Besharati, if possible could you please give your analysis of the deadlock in the Iran-Iraq peace talks?

[Besharati] If we were to study the general course of the Islamic revolution, we would realize that it automatically raises many hostilities. In verse 120 of the holy chapter of baqarah [Koranic chapter] God tells the apostle [Prophet Muhammad]: The Jews and the Christians will never be happy with you unless you submit to their demands and follow their way of life. But you tell them that the correct way of life is what God has shown you. Meanwhile, O you prophet, if you were to follow their way of life, if you were to submit to their demands and if you were to take any notice of their proposals after so much succor and so many victories that Almighty God has granted you, you must not expect any favor from us from God again. It seems as if Almighty God has made this divine revelation to the Muslim people of Iran through his angel reading the same verse to us. We view the talks, the Resolution 598, and all the problems of the post-cease-fire period as the other side of the war coin. This is, the conspiracies of global arrogance has two sides: One side of it is the war, the other side is talks. We do not believe these two sides are separate from each other.

The same global arrogance, which through the imposition of the eight-year war wanted to realize its wishes by harnessing the Islamic revolution, by halting the lofty aspirations of Islam, by forcing the Islamic revolution to abandon its slogan about the export of the revolution, and by eventually forcing us to return to the West's camp—but failed—is now wishing to realize its objections through the talks. We must remember that three influential members of the Security Council, who enjoy the right of veto, do not have good relations with us at all. The United States is the leader of them all. Resolution 598 is quite clear. Its first article is in two parts: Cease-fire and the withdawal of the forces. Today, over a year after the cease-fire the first article has not been implemented yet. This does not require any explanation. All countries believe that Resolution 598 is the best solution for ending the war and termination of hostility between the two countries.

Today 2,400 square kilometers of our territory is occupied by Iraq. We value every inch of our territory and are prepared to defend it as we defended the Islamic honor, the territorial integrity, and the system of the Islamic Republic for eight years. To us, the occupied area]is highly valuable and we shall eventually liberate this land. But they wish to exhaust us and make us despair, because they are not interested in this task. The United States is not interested at all. It wants relations with us so as to harness the Islamic revolution and, according to his own interpretation, to make us give up our fanatical slogans. But our slogans have emerged from the essence of the revolution. Our top diplomacy is about looking after affairs of the Muslims. It is a part of our Constitution to support the Muslims. We cannot be aliens and indifferent to the fate of the Muslims. The Islamic revolution belongs to all Muslims of the world and Iran is the motherland for all Muslims of the world. The Islamic Republic, the Islamic revolution, is a very serious phenomenon and will become stronger daily. The United States is not in favor of these things. We, therefore, have no common points with the United States.

Iraq does not wish to solve its dispute with us. Why? Because the eight years of war, which was imposed upon us by those who used Saddam as an agent by provoking him, left Saddam with 2 million wounded, 600,000 dead, financial losses of 150 billion, and 10 ruined cities. If Saddam were to return this occupied territory in exchange for his POWs, the people of Iraq would ask Saddam: What was the outcome of the eight-year war and so many losses? What did you achieve? To avoid such a problem, Saddam does not wish to solve the crisis. In addition, by keeping the tense situation between the two countries going, Saddam continues receiving astronomical sums of assistance from such states as Saudi Arabia. If the situation were to come to an end, the assistance would cease too. [passage omitted]

The Soviet Union suggested that it is ready to take a step toward solving the existing crisis. We told them that we are not opposed to the idea within the framework of Resolution 598 and in line with the secretary general's efforts. They agreed with this view too. The international affairs deputy of the Soviet Union's Foreign Ministry, Mr Bessmertnykh, is supposed to come to our country soon. But thanks to glasnost and perestroyka, the Russians are facing so many internal difficulties that I think it is highly unlikely for them to do anything in this connection. They are really facing complicated problems. We saw a clear example of these in Soviet Azerbaijan. There are now demonstrations and resistance in Turkmenia, Tajikistan, Kirghizia, and other regions, demanding freedom. Glasnost means political openness. Mr Gorbachev has created a problem for himself with his political openness. The three republics of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, among the European republics have almost hoisted the flag of independence. As a result the Soviet officials are entangled with their own domestic problems and such issues as the Iran-Iraq dispute and mediation rank twenty-ninth in their order of priority. At any rate we do not close the door to any activity toward the precise implementation of Resolution 598, in line with the efforts of the secretary general. We would welcome anyone who wishes to take a step in this direction. Our word, however, is clear: We have accepted the resolution and have respected the cease-fire; and now we are saying that the second part of the first article, that is, the withdrawal, should take place. The ball is in Saddam's and Iraq's court. Anybody else who wishes to take a step in this field should bear this in mind. [end recording]

Khamene'i Addresses Anniversary Meeting

LD1303150490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1102 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Speech by Ayatollah Khamene'i at meeting with various strata of society commemorating the birth anniversary of the 12th hidden imam; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Let me convey in turn my greetings on the occasion of this great 'Id and this historical and auspicious

birth anniversary to you brothers and sisters; to the entire great Iranian nation; and to Muslims or rather to all the oppressed of the world. [passage omitted]

The emotional and spiritual link between every single person and the lord of the age is a praiseworthy, if not necessary, matter and one which has certain effects: It keeps hope and expectation constantly alive in a person's heart; expectation is one of the most blessed states in which a human being can be. Expectation! Expecting what? Expecting a world bright with the light of justice. [passage omitted]

God will fill the land of humankind and of all those on earth with justice through the hidden imam's hands. One must expect that day. One must not allow the conquest of satans and the cruelty and enmity of the world's idols to put out the flame of hope in one's heart. One must be expectant.

Expectation is a strange thing; it is something which possesses various dimensions. One of the dimensions of expectation is precisely this: having faith in the future; being hopeful about the future and not being dejected. It is that spirit of expectation that teaches a person to fight in the path of justice and goodness. Were it not for expectation and hope, fighting would have no meaning. Were it not for faith in the future, expectation would have no meaning.

True expectation requires faith, confidence; you are expecting someone who you know will come. If you do not have faith and confidence that a person will appear, the expectation for that person is not true expectation. Faith is necessary for expectation. Those two require hope. That hope is something necessary for all nations and for all the people of the world today. Of course, throughout the long history of humankind, the world has seen some black and gloomy periods.

Without doubt, one of the most bleak periods and most bitter days for the people of the world, on the whole, can be said to be this period. One should have no doubt about this. This is because of the domination of satanic powers and the daily increasing domination of the great powers of the world over the lives of people. When you look at the state of the world, the whole matter becomes clear to you. The powers had divided the world between themselves and with every passing day, this hegemony and domination and occupation of various regions of the world by the great powers has became heavier and more burdensome. More than ever before the satanic and evil power, the United States for instance, interferes in the lives of nations. They interfere in all the major and fundamental affairs of nations. It is not only a question of the economic problems of nations. They interfere in their culture, in their politics, and in the administration of their affairs and their administrators. There are people who may not understand or be aware of the situation and thus live with peace of mind. But those who think, who are aware and who are enlightened, and who understand what the power of evil and evil powers are doing with their destinies and their lives, then the word is truly bleak and dark for them; it is a prison. [passage omitted] This actually applies to many alert people in many parts of the world. If there is hope of brighter days in the hearts of people then resistance and struggle are possible. If hope dies, then the struggle will also die; the movement toward the direction of goodness will also die.

Today, in the world, we are also witness to the awakening of nations. This is also another fact. It is true the hegemony of arrogance powers has increased daily over the affairs of nations and over nations, with the advances made in new technologies and television, the radio, propaganda and money as well as industrial resources and so forth. Divine tradition is based on the awakening of nations and we see nations are awakening with every passing day; and this is because of the hope they have found in the future. Hope is awakening people. We should have no doubt the most important source of hope for nations, in these past 10 years, has been the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the formation of people's government; the formation of a government of neither East nor West and a government to promote the policy of resistance in the face of arrogance powers. These have given hope to the people of the world, notably to the Muslims. The Muslims have awakened in all parts of the world and this was due to divine tradition and the power of the Almighty. How they crushed that sentence of our dear and late imam, who had graciously said [farmudeh budand]: We will be exporting our revolution to all the world! Look how world propaganda crushed that sentence!

The export of the revolution did not mean we would rise up and throw our weight and power around and begin wars, forcing people to revolt and carry out revolutions.

That was not the imam's intention at all. That is not part of our policies or tenets, and in fact, it is against them. That was how they interpreted that phrase and rebuked it, however. That is what exporting the revolution means; to enable all nations in the world to see that a nation is capable of standing on its own feet, resisting submission on its own strength, by relying on its own will and determination, and by placing its trust in God. The nations would believe that if they saw it; it would encourage them to save themselves from the force of oppression. That is exactly what happened. Today you can see for yourselves how the most manifest movements around the world have been carried out by Muslims in places where for many years the Muslims were put under pressure—from Kashmir to other countries wehre Muslims have risen up today. Of course, they will continue to be under much pressure, as they have been before. They have been tyrannized, but that pressure does not mean the actions had failed without producing results. Pressure cannot put a stop to a continous movement based on trust in God; on the contrary pressure could extend that very movement. You need only look at the Palestinian people today who genuinely resisted force in the occupied territories. That struggle in Palestine has been

taking place under arduous conditions, but the people have continued their struggle. Or, there is the Afghan nation, which was confronted with many hardships. There were days when no one was around to come to their rescue; they struggled alone and defenseless, and continued in the same way. The same goes for the rest of the nations, and that has emanated from the Islamic model in Iran, the model of the Islamic Republic. That is how a revolution is exported. That is how it has provided the nations with lessons and a model to follow.

Brothers! Sisters! The Iranian nation! I would like to point out to you that what is pursued by the colonialistic apparatus of America and its lackeys, and the enemies of Islam and the revolution today, is to distort that resistance face of the Iranian nation, on a global level. Your resistance has been a source of hope to all people in the world, since they witnessed the way you resisted, refusing to kneel down to pressure. What is the enemy supposed to do when its intention is to deprive the world of hope? It must endeavor to show the world that the Iranian nation's struggles had failed, and that the Iranian nation was unable to resist.

If, God forbid, the United States and its propaganda apparatuses, alongside those of the West and the arrogance manage to spread such a view in the world: that the Iranian nation, with all its assertions and hue and cry had at last failed to resist and come down on its knees, if they manage to propagate such a belief in the world, then they would have realized their goal. That very hope, which had filled the hearts of all Muslims, nations, and the deprived, would turn into despair. Now, just take a look at the U.S. propaganda, the Western propaganda, the arrogance's propaganda, and the Zionist propaganda, and most of the major mass media instruments that have links with the Zionists. Just take a look at their propaganda, and you will see how all their actions are based on that very point. They do not report anything which may depict the Iranian nation's hope and resistance. They do not reflect the people's unity. They do not reflect the people's zest and courage. They do not reflect the great march of the people on 22 Bahman [11 February] in its true sense. They do not reflect the news of the activities, progresses, and endeavors of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Government. They do not correctly reflect the news of the unprecedented devotion displayed by our nation toward the official organizations. They do not even reflect the news of Iran's victory vis-a-vis those who voiced allegations of human rights, culminating in a visit by a UN representative, who came and disgraced the enemies of the revolution, the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], and others who had made such allegations by submitting his report. They did not even accurately reflect that.

They were very mean in reporting the clear facts of the Iranian nation. For, if the people of the world were to realize that on the day of 22 Bahman, after his holiness imam's demise such a great movement took place, they would become more hopeful. They did not report this because it was a sign of resistance of the Iranian nation. You remember during the war, too, they did not report our nation's victories. The day our zealous combatants recaptured Khorramshahr, they were not reporting the news. In summary, any news which demonstrates the resistance, the hope and steadfastness of the Iranian nation against powers, anything which brings hope to other nations, is hushed up and not broadcast. On the other hand, if they find something, something which brings despair, for instance, if a speaker were to say something somewhere and if he were to give some true or false statistics, which shows there is some shortage or shortcomings, soon you will see all the foreign radio stations begin broadcasting it. If someone were to claim there is discord and division, or if he were to say something smells of discord and division, they would report it in hundreds of languages, just to show there is discord and division in Iran. They report such things.

You, members of various organs of the Islamic Republic, who have gathered here, I welcome you all. You have achieved so much in your works by advancing into the new territories of theoretical and practical science, but none of your achievements is reported. However, if they were to find some weak points, they would magnify it. Why? Because your achievements will influence the morale of other nations. They do not wish to see that your steadfastness and continuation of your powerful life is bringing hope to others, because they know this will create a headache for the major powers. Of course, Almighty God is with us. God has assisted us in every occasion of the past 11 years, and will continue to do so.

God's assistance will once again embrace the Iranian nation; there is no doubt about that. The condition of this is for us to have God in our mind in whatever we do. We should persevere; each one of us and especially the officials and those in charge of a task should endeavor to carry out the task well, to carry it out for God and for the nation's good. We, who are waiting for the return of the imam of the age, should build and construct today's life in the same direction that the government of the imam of the age—to him we offer our prayers and greetings and may God hasten his advent—would be formed. Of course, we are humble beings in comparison and cannot claim to be able to build that which the holy saints have built or will build; but we should make efforts in that direction and work for it.

The imam of the age is the manifestation of God's justice. We know the greatest characteristic of the imam of the age, may God's peace be upon him, which appear in prayers, verses, and sayings is justice. [passage omitted] We should turn society into a society of justice, today. Justice [edalat] is more important than anything else in the building of a society. Justice, in the sense of the absence of discrimination in laws, retribution laws [hudud] and rulings [akham]. Justice means assisting people who are deprived and helpless; justice means the programs of the state and the general move of the state toward securing the livelihood of the oppressed and the meek; justice means that those who, under the heavy shadow of the evil system, were deprived of their rights

should now have those rights. Justice means that no particular group should reserve for itself some special rights. Rights, human rights, social rights, general rights should be equal; so too should divine retribution laws be applied in an equal manner to everyone. This is the meaning of justice. Justice means those who, relying on bullying, deceit, on incorrect deeds, on materialistic minds that deviate from spirituality, who have access to things which they have no right to have, should not have the opportunity to continue along this path. Assisting the meek, assisting the deprived—of course, assistance also includes assistance given by individuals whereby every individual helps. But the matter is more complicated than this; the assistance coming from the system, the organizations of the system, should move in this direction.

This is a life in which there is justice, and if we advance our lives and if we move in this direction, then you can be sure that God Almighty would help us and materialistic powers would not be able to turn away our nation from this path, which is full of pride, through their tricks and deceits, or to take away our nation's resistance. The resistance of the people will increase evermore, God willing. We hope with the blessings of the prayer of the lord of the age and with divine favor, the people of Iran would be able to follow this path through God's grace as long as there is power in their legs. May this bring delight to the hearts of the families of our dear martyrs and disabled and all those who sustained injuries in the path of the revolution. May all our eyes shine with seeing the lord of the age. May God's mercy be upon you.

Egyptian POW's Freed at Shaykh Sha'ban's Request

NC1403073290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] On the occasion of the auspicious birthday of the imam of the ages, may God expedite his advent, and at the request of Shahykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of Lebanon's Islamic Unification Movement, 20 misled Egyptians captured by the combatants of Islam during the sacred defense were released this morning and handed over to International Red Cross representatives in Iran. After listening to Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, the group will be flown to Geneva, and from there they will return to Egypt, their homeland. A committee member in charge of the prisoners of war said on their release:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified official] In the name of God, the Almighty, the Merciful. Following the esteemed leadership's previous decisions on the release of Iraqi prisoners of war, it was decided to release the Egyptian mercenaries too. This is the second group of Egyptian mercenaries being released, which is a manifestation of the Islamic Republic's mercy. People from various countries, namely this group released today, fought against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic revolution on the war fronts.

[Unidentified correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Official] You are welcome. [end recording]

Meanwhile, IRNA reports that Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban said at the ceremony marking the Egyptians' release: About a year ago, I was received by his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, and requested the release of the Egyptians who were captured during the imposed war. This request was accepted. After the imam's demise, I was received by Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, and I brought up the issue. After following up the matter and with the Iranian officials' cooperation, this has now been implemented.

Esfahan Reactors Become Operational

NC1403083490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] On the occasion of the auspicious birthday of the imam of the ages, may God expedite his advent, the subcritical mass reactors and the neutron production laboratories became operational. Vice President Amrollahi, head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization and Mr. Mo'in, minister of culture and higher education, were at the Esfahan Nuclear Technology Center to witness this.

The Central News Unit reports that Esfahan's subcritical mass reactor has been designed and constructed within the Atomic Energy Organization's basic objectives and with the objective of attaining the technology to design nuclear reactors in this center. The Esfahan reactors use natural uranium for fuel.

Using such reactors is the first step toward learning the various meanings of reactor physics as far as designing reactors through tests and conforming this design with expanded theory are concerned. The report states that the nuclear engineering branch of the Esfahan Nuclear Technology Center has also set up a laboratory to produce neutrons at the center. This laboratory is equipped with (Kacgraft) and (Walton) neutron producing equipment.

The laboratory is currently being used as a training center for the center's work force. Its extensive research in industry, agriculture, and other fields will enable a 27-kw reactor to be constructed in the next two years.

Velayati Leaves for Geneva Disarmament Conference

NC1403065090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati left Tehran for Geneva this morning heading a delegation to participate in the disarmament conference. The Central News Unit reports that the conferees will discuss signing an agreement on chemical weapons, on nuclear arms testing, and on preventing an arms race in space.

Majles Ratifies Budget Bill, Reviews Details

LD1303132390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The Majles, during its session today, continued the debate on the budget bill for the year 1369 [beginning 21 March 1990]. [passage omitted] The bill was ratified by the deputies. Afterwards, the Majles began the task of reviewing the minor details of the budget bill. Some amendments proposed by the deputies on several notes in this bill were raised, and some of them were approved. [passage omitted]

Afghan Shiite Commanders Arrive for Congress

LD1103093190 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—A group of Afghan Shi'ite commanders, mujahideen leaders and personalities fighting against the Kabul regime, arrived here Sunday to attend the first grand assembly of Afghan Shi'ites to open here next Tuesday.

The group was greeted at the airport by representative of the leader at the Iran-based nine-party alliance Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Ibrahimi and Deputy Foreign Minister in Charge of Asia-Pacific Department Alaeddin Broujerdi [name as received].

The three-day congress will open on the birthday of the twelfth imam (AS) [God's peace be upon him] of the household of Prophet Mohammad (SAW) [peace be upon him] with a message of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and a speech by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Some 250 Afghan commanders, scholars and ranking personalities from throughout the world will take part in the congress, the main theme of which is unity and coordination in Afghan Shi'ite society.

Commentary on Coup Attempt in Afghanistan

LD0903211190 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Unattributed commentary: "Ambiguity Over the Future of Afghanistan"]

[Excerpts] The head of the Kabul regime, Najibullah, has said: The military coup under the leadership of the former defense minister had been fully defeated, and this is at a time when scattered fighting still continues in certain regions in Kabul. [passage omitted]

The recent coup attempt in Afghanistan, which was of a large magnitude, led to the killing and injury of over 200 civilians. The world's mass media, by reflecting the recent events of Afghanistan, consider this coup as an attempt aimed at rapid settlement of the issue which was defeated because the big governments did not welcome it. It is predicted that this incident will be the beginning of a full politico-psychological tension within Kabul's government, paving the way for further developments in that country, which will persuade the rival factions toward an accelerated effort in resolving the issue.

Although the recent coup attempt was defeated, actually this event showed that the government of Kabul is facing serious differences within the army, and it is not capable of surviving without the support of foreign forces. In this relation, the Afghan Muslim fighters too, have realized that if they do not seek a rapid solution, they will face an unpredictable situation. This issue can lead to a trend which will bring about a full [word indistinct]. Currently the dispute over power control in Afghanistan has become more complicated than in the past. During the past month, efforts have been made, and in the event of success they can bring about a united front composed of Afghan militant groups and parties. The lack of cohesion among the Afghan Muslim fighters has constantly failed to take advantage of the vulnerability of the Kabul government so as to bring their [word indistinct] of struggle to a desirable result. What is certain is that such incidents as the recent coup plot in Afghanistan can cause a civil war. The Western mass media have been trying to link the recent coup attempts to the leaders of the Peshawar-based seven-party alliance. The assessment of the interim government of the seven-party group based in Peshawar has rejected this accusation, and has said that none of the Mujahedin leaders have had any meetings or coordinations with the leader of the recent coup attempt.

At any rate, what is certain is that Afghanistan is now in its most sensitive historic stage, and the trend of events is rapidly moving toward resolving of the issue. It is at this sensitive stage that the Muslim and struggling people of Afghanistan must keep their vigilance and unity, and make a leverage out of it for forming a united front, because otherwise [word indistinct] would be others who will take decisions for them, and the struggling people of Afghanistan will be once again forced to fight for restoring their rights. Beyond that the complications of the future situation is more that the present one, for it would be more difficult to distinguish between enemies and friends.

Soviet Minister Meets With Habibi, Nurbakhsh

LD0703142290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Mr. Konarev, the Soviet Union's minister for road and transport [title as heard] is in Tehran to take part in the 12th session of the permanent joint commission of Iranian-Soviet economic cooperation. This morning he met Mr. Habibi, first presidential deputy. In that meeting, also attended by Mr. Nurbakhsh, minister of economy and finance, Mr. Konarev first sought bilateral cooperation in the following fields: gas, industries, nuclear energy, steel, air, sea and ground routes, fisheries, and issues pertaining to the environment and the Caspian Sea, as well as space cooperation.

Mr. Habibi then pointed to the bilateral resolve concerning establishing firm ties and economic and technical cooperation. He further expressed satisfaction about talks held in the permanent commission, and said: The progress in work is considerable, given the time in which the commission is carrying out its work. He then stressed that the adopted decisions in the permanent commission should be implemented as soon as possible.

Issues pertaining to continuation of technical and industrial cooperations between Iran and Soviet Union in the fields of manufacturing railcars, machines, heavy metals, and Esfahan's foundry project, as well as development of Arak's machine manufacturing plant, were discussed today in the meeting between the Soviet Union's minister for road and transportation and our country's minister for heavy industries.

According to our corresopndent's report, in that meeting, Mr. Nejad-Hoseiniyan, minister of heavy industries, sought the acceleration of the process of executive works pertaining to articles of agreement reached between the two countries in industrial fields. He further asked the Soviet minister to make arrangements for more serious follow up to execute the protocol's articles.

According to the same report, Mr. Konarev, Soviet minister for road and transportation, in turn, expressed his government's willingness for bilateral industrial cooperation. He said that after returning to the Soviet Union, he will follow up the issue. The report says further that upon the conclusion of that meeting, both sides stressed the manufacturing of railcars for Tehran's metro by the Pars car manufacturing factory. It was decided that delegations from that factory and from metro's urban railways company should visit the Soviet Union in the near future to carry out the necessary talks.

Calls Talks 'Fruitful,' Departs

LD0703142390 Tehran IRNA in English 1252 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—The Islamic Republic and the Soviet Union have inked a protocol for cooperation in various fields for 1990, at the end of their 12th Joint Economic Commission.

Soviet Railways Minister Nikolay Konarev, who headed the Soviet side to the commission said today that the protocol guaranteed mutual cooperation in the fields of energy, fisheries, transportation, heavy industries, mines, metallurgy, nuclear energy and environment.

Before taking off for Moscow, he told reporters at the Mehrabad Airport, that the 12th meeting as 'very fruitful' and the proposed building of a nuclear power plant in Iran is a 'new basis' for mutual cooperation.

Konarev announced Moscow's readiness for negotiations with Iran on completion of the semi-finished nuclear power station in the southern port city of Bushehr.

He said the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes was another topic discussed by the two sides.

The two countries are to start talks in Tehran by March 20 to finalize the export of Iranian natural gas to the Soviet Union, added the Soviet railway minister.

Minister of Finance and Economy Mohsen Nurbakhsh, who was present saw off the Soviet delegation, said all aspects of the gas export plan have been agreed upon except for the price which would be settled in the upcoming talks in Tehran.

According to the protocol, Nurbakhsh said, talks would continue between the two sides for increasing the annual capacity of the Esfahan steel mill to 1.9 million tons and finally to four million tons.

Among other topics reviewed by the two neighbours were cooperation for building of dams and power stations with a total generation capacity of 5,500 megawatt along the River Karun in Khuzestan.

He said Soviet experts would come to Iran in late April to study the projects.

Tehran and Moscow have also agreed to cooperate in heavy industries, machine building, iron work, foundry, telemetry, agriculture, silo building, banking affairs, customs, insurance and the subway rail system.

Editorial Views Soviet Parliamentary Elections

NC1303103890 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 7 Mar 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Ethnic Moves Facing a Hardline Campaign in USSR]

[Text] Over 150 million Soviet citizens went to the polling booths on Sunday to elect 1,800 members of parliament for Russia, Ukraine and Belorussia Republics. The elections will also determine the occupants of thousands of local councils.

The three constituencies in these three republics are home of almost two thirds of the 290 million people of the USSR.

The elections have taken off the ground amidst recent accommodations coming from no less than the all-powerful Communist Party. The party has virtually gone out of its way by appearing to relinquish its claim to monopoly of power.

The president too has been trying hard to turn his seat into a still more executive position putting more significant decision- making within his office.

Amidst this of course violent demonstrations have been reported in a small city near the Uzbekistan capital ot Tashkent on Saturday. The whole of Uzbekistan has actually been a scene of unrest in recent weeks.

Now if those sympathizing with Gorbachev's perestroika win the elections, accompanied by a host of non-party candidates, and given the vast powers now attached to the president's office, chances are Gorbachev will have his position greatly enhanced for bringing the restive mood in the union under control. The favorable results of the elections also cement the perestroika's position as the undisputable policy line of the country.

Although Gorbachev seems to believe in radical changes within the union and wishes to satisfy ethnic groups in various republics across the vast fedration, he by no means appears to knuckle under to any separatist moves on the part of groups claiming ethnic nationhood.

As such the victory for Gorbachev and his supporters in the elections will be a launching pad for a hardline campaign against separatist moves in the restive Soviet Republics.

Popular demands will then be met only as far as the framework of the reforms initiated by Gorbachev allows.

The future will tell if glasnost and perestroika are able to alleviate or possibly suppress the fervent ethnic moves and demands of minorities piled up and clogged for long decades by former Soviet governments.

Domestically Made Gunboat Launched in Caspian

LD1303001890 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Bandar-e Anzali, Mar. 12, IRNA—An Iranian-made 50-ton ferry gunboat for training was launched at this northern Caspian port city Monday.

The gunboat, named 'Qa'em-1' is 20 meters long and six meters wide and can sail at 16 nautical miles per hour. It is manufactured by the Maritime Department of the Defence Industries Organization and corresponds with international standards.

Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics Akbar Torkan, who was present at the launching ceremony said 'all past experience has convinced the Iranians that they should rely on their native capacities for manufacturing arms and other military hardware.'

He said that modernization of military industries are among the principal goals of his ministry for the upcoming 5-year development plan.

Turkish Envoy Examines Bilateral Relations

NC0803174090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Feb 90 pp 1, 7

[Text] Tehran—Turkish prime minister is arriving here today and a top diplomat of his country here said 'ample grounds' exist for the increase of bilateral relations.

Turkish Ambassador to Iran 'Omer Akbel talking to the TEHRAN TIMES said, "We are interested in increased and diversified relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran on a basis of mutual respect."

Akbel said, "The same sentiments we too feel in Tehran and this of course provides ample ground for increased bilateral relations."

The ambassador was commenting on the visit of Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut to Iran. He is coming here today at the invitation of First Vice President Hasan Habibi.

Turkish Ambassador Akbel said that it will be his first visit to any foreign country since his appointment as prime minister in November last year.

Akbulut, 55, has been active in his country's politics. He was appointed interior minister of his country in 1984 and speaker in 1989.

"Iran is our neighbor and naturally we want better relations with this country and the current meeting of the joint ministerial commission will pave the way for better ties in diversified ways," Akbel said.

The eighth meeting of the Irano-Turkish Ministerial Commission for Economic, Commercial and Technical Cooperation will start today.

"For that Minister of State Cemil Cicek has already arrived here to co-chair the joint commission along with Minister of Heavy Industries Mohammad Hadi Nezhad-Hoseniyan," Akbel said.

Commentary Views Tunisian 'Suppression' of Islam

LD0403134490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1059 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to political observers, the present unrest in Tunisian universities and higher education centers, which has spread to the streets of the capital and other parts of the coutry, shows once more the deep influence and the extensive popular base of the supporters of Islam, and has put enormous pressure on the pro-Western government of General Ben Ali, which continues to resist the strong pro-Islamic wave in that country.

No doubt, the changes made in the Tunisian cabinet as part of the measures taken by General Ben Ali to confront the present crisis in that country are worth evaluating.

In the meantime, considering the past performance of Abdelhamid Escheikh, the new Tunisian interior minister, political observers believe that the regime of Ben Ali most probably intends to continue its suppression policies against Islamic supporters.

Before entering the cabinet and holding the post of foreign minister, the new Tunisian interior minister was for years the Tunisian Army's chief of the Joint Staff. For

that reason, it seems unlikely that the government will reconsider its policy toward Islamic supporters. Still, it is clear that resorting to more violence and adopting suppression policies against Islamic supporters will not bring the problem closer to solution, but will possiby prolong and exacerbate the present unrest and crisis.

Relief Committees Celebrate 11th Anniversary

Khamene'i Praises Efforts

LD0503121390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] On the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the establishment of the Imam Khomeyni Relief Committee [IKRC], His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution and guardian of the Muslims' cause, received members of the Central Council and the officials from IKRCs around the country before noon today. In that meeting, his eminence praised them for their services and for the important role of that foundation in assisting the deprived and the needy of the community, and termed the length of service of the IKRC—which is also adorned with the blessed name of his eminence the imam, may his soul be admitted to paradise—as successful and glorious.

Referring to the highly valuable services rendered by the IKRC in safeguarding the achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system, his eminence graciously said: It is necessary that the Imam's Relief Committee should exist so as to carry out a number of beneficial tasks aimed at removing the deprivation of a section of the society, and, praise be to God, that committee which was set up in the name of our great imam, has succeeded in moving in the direction of that eminence's wishes, achieving major feats.

Concluding his remarks, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, addressing the officials from IKRC, graciously said: Since you regard your task and relief work as a religious and divine service, those services have assumed a special value and glory, and the Almighty God provides assistance, when a task is carried out to please him.

President Speaks on Poverty

LD0503143290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] On the anniversary of the establishment of Imam Khomeyni's Relief Committee [IKRC], President Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed the responsible officials and employees of the IKRCs from all over the country today and praised this institute of the Islamic revolution for its activities over the past 11 years. He graciously stressed: The longer the life of this institute becomes, the more we appreciate the need for its existence; and His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may Almighty God be satisfied with his deeds, was particularly interested in the work, the aspect of sincerety, and the services of this committee.

Further in his address to the audience, which also included Mr. Asgar-Owladi, the representative of the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult in the IKRC; provincial managers of the institute; responsible officials of various towns, and the deputies and members of the central committee of the IKRC, the president referred to the growth of this revolutionary institute after the revolution victory, the period of which brought difficulties to the deprived strata in the wake of the lengthy strikes and economic stagnation [of the last days of the Shah] and [the period when] there was no organization to take charge of this social responsibility. He graciously pointed out: Under those circumstances, a group comprising the best friends of the revolution and those who had played a crucial role in the revolution victory, thought of this significant responsibility; and the start of the task was a necessity that happened; and it received a warm welcome in society.

The president, referring to the point that the main objective of Islam's socioeconomic system is to create a society where there is no deprived person to require assistance, graciously said: One of the signs of this institute's health is the fact that it has managed to improve its position in society with growing effectiveness as time passes. This institute has sincerely worked for the people, and it has played a valuable role both in the distribution of state services and in collecting public donations to be distributed among the needy.

Referring to the IKRC's experience in organizing the resources and its proper discernment[of whom to assist, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, addressing the officials of this institute, graciously pointed out: The resources have not been distributed fairly among the deprived, and on some occasions what has been destined for the deprived has been used by the nondeprived and your duty is to made certain that these resources are distributed fairly.

The president referred to the necessity of making the deprived self-sufficient as the main objective of Islam, adding: Islam's objective is not to have deprived masses who receive assistance. Our country's deprived strata are not condemned to remaining deprived until the end of their lives. The reason behind their deprivation is unemployment, and lack of capital and tools of self employment. We, therefore, by placing resources at the disposal of the deprived, should allow them to stand on their own feet and live with honor. Safeguarding human dignity of the deprived is more important than giving them bread, and the main goal should be creation of employment to enable the deprived to feed themselves. For instance, setting up small workshops for weaving carpets and rugs and promoting cottage industries is particularly important for this purpose. Such products have many customers in the world market, and those who have the initiative to trade and market such products should offer their experience.

Referring to the shortage of raw materials in the past, the president graciously said: All the factories will produce with their maximum capacity in the near future, and the

raw materials of these factories will be in plentiful supply. Under such circumstances, through economic revival, abundance of raw materials and job creation, one can implement social justice, remove discrimination in society, and eliminate the leech-natured individuals.

In conclusion, the president again stressed the importance of employment for the deprived.

On the basis of this report, at the start of this meeting, Mr. Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi, the representative of vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult in the IKRC, presented a short report on the programs of this institute to provide health care, education, cultural services, and means of self-sufficiency to the deprived and oppressed families. He said: The IKRC is ready to move toward elimination of poverty and deprivation, and it believes that the Five-Year Plan should also be directed toward elimination of poverty and deprivation.

Ahmad Khomeyni Addresses Group

LD0603220890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] On the anniversary of the founding of the Imam Khomeyni Relief Committee [IKRC], ceremonies were held this afternoon next to the blessed shrine of the imam of the ummah—may his dust be sanctified—in presence of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, members of the Central Council of the IKRC and its staff.

During the ceremonies, 'Asgar-Owladi, representative of the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult in the IKRC, presented a report in connection with the committee's work during the past year. Then Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni expressed his thanks for the activities of the IKRC in fighting poverty and in assisting the deprived. He then discussed the state of the Islamic Republic system. He said: The 11 February rally was a heavy blow to the enemies of Islam. For that reason, imperialism uses ineffective propaganda to weaken the Islamic Republic. However, we must hold each others' hands and thereby negate such ineffective propaganda through our unity.

Further on in his speech, he pointed to the issue of cultural poverty, saying: That issue is more important than material poverty; and it is necessary for relief workers to wage confrontation against cultural poverty, as well as against material poverty.

In conclusion, he described the efforts of the Islamic republic to reconstruct the country, saying: We support the Hashemi-Rafsanjani government, and in the shadow of our dear leader we will try to take steps on the path of the imam.

Iraqi Seminar in London 'Publicity Stunt'

LD0303212990 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] London, March, 3, IRNA—The Iraqi propaganda seminar held on 1st March in central London, to discuss the immediate release of POW's "on humanitarian grounds", before Baghdad withdraws its forces from Iranian territory as per UN Resolution 598, came to an end in almost total failure.

No tangible benefits for Iraq were gained from the four-hour seminar, which was organised by the Gulf Centre for Strategic Studies Ltd, but there was heavy criticism from all sides, of Iraq's use of chemical weapons.

It was asked how Iraq could talk of "humanitarian reasons" for the speedy exchange of POW's, which they need urgently, while being one of the world's worse offenders on human rights violations, including the use of chemical weapons against their own Kurdish population in March 1988, which resulted in the deaths of 5,000 men, women and children.

The seminar was held in the Jubilee Room of the British Parliament and it was clear that the debate was very one sided, as no Iranian representative had been invited to participate and during the seminar in Britain's Parliament Building, anti-Iranian leaflets were distributed. Many pro-Iraqi British MPs also participated as did several Arab ambassadors.

Speakers at the meeting included the first undersecretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, Wisam al-Zahawi, MP Bruce George (the chairman of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) Political Committee), an Iranian lecturer from Exeter University in the south-west of England and a Middle East political analyst from the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

No representative of Iran spoke and a proposed speech by a representative of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council, was unexpectedly cancelled.

After Baghdad representative's denial of the use of chemical weapons by his regime, and following heavy questioning and criticism from the British press, other reporters and other participants, including the political editor of the daily INDEPENDENT, who called al-Zahawi's speech inaccurate and a lie, everyone became convinced that it was merely a publicity stunt for Iraq and a waste of time.

The resolutions prepared by Iraq's supporters among the MPs, concerning the POW issue, failed to gain any support and achieved nothing. The chairman announced that no resolution was agreed upon in the seminar.

The Iraqis are demanding the release of POW's on "humanitarian grounds," before the withdrawal of any of their forces to the internationally-recognised boundries, as clearly stipulated in the United Nations' Security

Council Resolution 598 as a second phase after the cease fire. The exchange of POW's is supposed to be the third stage.

The Iraqis are refusing to withdraw to the internationally agreed boundaries as 598 calls for, and they also refuse to register a few thousand of the Iranian prisoners of war as POW's and for this reason, discussions over the implementation of 598 have now reached a stalemate.

An Iranian official who talked to IRNA, said Tehran would have liked to participate to say what is happening to Iranian POW's in Iraqi prison camps, to explain how the Iranians are suffering from these delays in exchange of prisoners and to put the Iranian point of view generally, but were not given the chance.

He added that over 84,000 Iranians living in the now "occupied territory", are still homeless and are suffering from Iraqi occupation and delays in withdrawal to the boundaries. In addition, those families of Iranian POW's which are not registered with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Iraq, are also anxious about the likely outcome.

The "quality" papers from among the British press therefore chose not to report a single word from the meeting, realising it was Iraqi propaganda. And given the lack of representation for Iranians, many people taking part in the seminar, came to the conclusion that it was extremely one-sided against Iran.

The Iraqi delegation left the conference hall in humiliation.

President Chairs Expediency Committee Session

LD0703142490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] The fourth session of the Islamic Committee for Discerning Expediency for the System was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. During the session discussions were held about the bill on labor law, which was included in the agenda following a disagreement between the Council of Guardians and the Majles. The first 12 articles of that bill were ratified by the members of the Committee. The debate about that issue will continue in the next session.

*New Appointment in Gilan Announced

90OI0202J Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 25 Feb 90 p 10

[Text] News Department: Engineer Tabataba'i, deputy minister of housing and urban development and acting director of the Urban Lands Organization, announced that Engineer Jahan Refa'i has been appointed general manager of urban lands in Gilan Province and has assumed duties.

*Report on 17 Jan 90 Majles Session

90OI0160A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 18 Jan 90 pp 5, 3

[Text] Legal and Majles Bureau:

The open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was held yesterday morning under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi and continued under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemian. In this session, after recitation of some verses from the Holy Koran, Messrs. Mo'ezeddin, the deputy from Esfahan, and Qazizadeh-Hashemi, the deputy from Sarakhs and Fariman spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then, in a speech, Mr. Karrubi spoke in commemoration of the birthdays of Her Holiness Fatemeh and her holy son the imam and in memory of the martyrs of the Fedayeen [devotees] of Islam. After the Majles speaker's speech the deputies' memos to the country's executive officials were read and then the Majles began its session.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary reporter, the first item on the agenda was continuation of the study of the bill pertaining to salaries, fringe benefits, fixed savings, insurance rights, and health plan for all who are covered under the Army Law. All articles of this bill were approved by the deputies.

The second item on the agenda was the plan to create adequate facilities in order to issue business permits for the families of life-givers [disabled veterans], freed POW's, and the respected families of martyrs and MIA's, which was passed.

The last item on the agenda was the plan for the correction of some of the articles of the 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] budget bill. This plan was submitted as a double urgency motion and was passed.

The following is the text of the pre-agenda speeches and details of the discussions:

Mohammad Mo'ezeddin, The Representative of the People of Esfahan

The first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Mohammad Mo'ezeddin from the Esfahan constituency. First, he praised the sacred spirit of the founder of the Islamic Republic, His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, and greeted the exalted leadership, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i. He also offered his congratulations on the birthday of Her Holiness [Fatemeh] Zahra [daughter of the Prophet].

The representative of the people of Esfahan then said: Creation of false political circumstances will lead us nowhere but to cultivating the culture of anarchy in all pillars of the country and especially in our production. In the midst of these false waves, a weak management will grow along with false and opportunistic policies which will have no results except inflation, poverty, and, ultimately, dependence. Our people have well realized that

once England and now America has been their main enemy. They have also realized the fact that the lack of understanding has been the fertile ground for the growth of false political circumstances in this country. This people, by offering hundreds of thousands of martyrs, wounded and prisoner, has declared its readiness to prevent the reoccurrence of such big mistakes. This readiness should be the compensation for a noble nation who has always depended on God.

He added: Social justice is the message of the revolution. With this message, if we evaluate our mistakes and also find out about mistakes of other countries, we will find out that the main problem of third world countries is not only the presence of unaccounted capital. Indeed it is the lack of suitable growth of production knowledge in these countries that has drag them into such dead-end situations that are suitable for the aims of superpowers. If it is assumed that imports are the main reason for dependence, then, Japan will have to be the most dependent country in the world. According to 1987 statistics, this country has been the biggest importer of raw material and food products. During that year the crude oil imports were 160 million tons, wheat imports were 5.5 million tons, corn imports were 16.5 million tons, salt imports were seven million tons, lumber imports were 27 million tons and, finally, iron ore imports of Japan totaled 112 million tons.

While pointing out the duties of the Islamic Consultative Majles during the period of reconstruction, Mr. Mo'ezeddin said: The requirement for the reconstruction period is honesty and discipline rather than creating a false atmosphere. If today the Islamic Consultative Majles, with its foresight, paves the way for fruitful government efforts then, also, the necessity for an honest encounter with the people is being felt more than any other time.

He added: If a country such as Japan could pave the way for the absorption of technology through establishing a military system and by vocational training in factories during 1940 to 1954, we will never be able to facilitate the absorption of 120 billion dollars of investments by establishing consultative systems inside our manufacturing units. I know well that talking against the consultative system will have political consequences. Also, during these sensitive times, I consider politicizing the reconstruction of the war-ravaged economy of the country a big mistake. It is for this reason that I think false circumstances, be they in political affairs or economic, are as a result of ambitions which throughout the bloody history of this nation have been the main reason for dependence.

The speaker continued: At a time when the crushing sound of communism's bones and its economic policies are being heard across the world, and every honest person accepts that these methods will not be fruitful, why should counter productive formations be rejuvenated in our governmental organizations and manufacturing facilities by a ministry's directive.

Mr. Mo'ezeddin requested from the Council for Determination of Policy to expedite the process of sending the Work Law to the government in order to avoid the occurrence of discord in the production environment, and so a suitable atmosphere for new investments can be created. In regard to the use of facilities and foreign credit he said: The issue that has kept many fans of the regime preoccupied and caused concern among them is the discussion about using foreign facilities and credits or "borrowing." It seems that it is best for the respected government to conduct familiarization sessions for all concerned and revolutionaries. What is certain is that the Five-Year Plan's paragraph "V" ["F"] and Note 29 are for direct borrowing, even though the objective has be full utilization of domestic production potentials. This is, indeed, in line with thrift and savings. If we had intended to borrow for our daily consumption it would be treachery. It would be the same move that has saddened our experts and burdened our masses during the past 100 years. However, what is prescribed in article "V" and Note 29 of the Five-Year Plan is investment in the production manufacturing sector and utilization of foreign credit facilities such that repayment can be from the savings which will result from the production as a result of these investments. Another worry of our concerned experts stems from our difficulties in the management area and shortage of expert labor force. This problem will not be solved except through revolutionary effort, maintaining a healthy political atmosphere, presentation of a correct definition of accepted Islamic social relations, establishment of individual working system and, the most important, prevention of factors that destablize management. The Five-Year Plan is being presented to the Majles at a time when one of its principals—the physical balance of the first expansion program—has been shaken. What is certain is that the negative physical balance, which means non-realization of the plan, is the least that has occurred. We know well that the problem of economic management, albeit the productivity of a skilled labor force, and necessary regulations for manufacturing and consumer production of the society is, in itself, an essential factor for non-realization of the plan. It seems that the Islamic Consultative Majles should place the review of the production obstacles at the top of its agenda. In order to do so in a serious manner, it is necessary that the Majles commissions, in close cooperation with the government, address these obstacles. Presently our various economic sectors are facing substantial and known obstacles. Only after alleviating these categories of obstructions can we look deeper in order to promote these sectors. What we have experienced during the past 10 years is the utilization of natural mechanisms of the economy. The most difficult task of the government will be to find such mechanisms that—coupled with the economic science—matches with or, at least, is close to the present trend among our active people on the economic scene. Therefore, training of new economic procedures, familiarization of the people with present methods and trends in trade and manufacturing on the international scene can certainly pave the way for economic rehabilitation.

The speaker added: Creation of an information center and strengthening it in order to inform researchers and domestic producers about the capabilities and technological knowledge of each other is one of the most important methods for achieving the goal of finding various sources of income. Putting some order into research, engineering, and expansion in all manufacturing units is another useful method for us to follow.

The representative of the people of Esfahan then pointed out to the sacrifices of the people of this province during the eight years of holy defense and said: It should not be forgotten that, it was as a result of the great efforts by the hard-working officials and due to the nobility of these people that the workers' city of Esfahan was maintained with such calm and maintained their support for the war and the revolution despite all these pressures.

In conclusion, Mr. Mo'ezzedin pointed out the problems of his constituency and expressed hope that, with the appointment of Engineer Vaqefi to the post of governor of Esfahan, positive steps will be taken to resolve them.

Qazizadeh-Hashemi, The Representative of the People of Sarakhs and Fariman

Mr. Qazizadeh-Hashemi, the representative of the people of Sarakhs, Fariman, and Ahmadabad was the second and final pre-agenda speaker. In his speech, he praised the auspicious birthday of Her Holiness Fatemeh-Zahra and the glorified Women's Day. Then he referred to the recent events involving the farmers of Sarakhs and said: In a recent interview with representatives of the mass media Mr. 'Alizadeh, the public prosecutor for Mashhad, announced that 31 people have been sentenced to prison terms of between one to 10 years. Regretfully, over three months has passed since the events involving Sarakhs' farmers and I do not know what elements were the cause of why the media did not report the news of this matter. Now that these verdicts have been announced, I believe there is a truth about this matter which would be an injustice if I do not reveal and anyone who seeks to prevent the spread of truth belongs to Satan. Now that the mission of Mr. Prosecutor in Sarakhs is concluded and the verdicts have been announced, I thought it my duty to present a brief report to the respected Majles.

The respected deputies were informed, through newsletter number 33 of the Islamic Consultative Majles and the national media, that on 12 Esfand of last year [3 March 1989] nearly 2,000 farmers and the populace of Sarakhs region took part in a march to protest the land distribution policies of the Property Office of the Astan-e Qods, Sarakhs branch. In the aftermath of this march a delegation from the Provisions Council of Khorasan province was dispatched to Sarakhs. After listening to the grievances of the people in the city's mosque, the delegation promised the farmers that within 15 days their grievances will be reported to the responsible officials and the farmers will be informed of the results. Unfortunately, six months passed without any action taken. On 15 Shahrivar of this year [6 September 1989] the people, in order to get some answers, led by the families of martyrs went to the site of some water wells and turned off the pumps for several hours. Of course I do not endorse forceful occupation, but the responsible officials must find the cause of this occupation and find solutions for the agricultural and other problems of the people of Sarakhs. The public prosecutor of Mashhad, after receiving an order from the respected chief of the judicial branch stating "You are tasked to investigate the grievances of Sarakhs' farmers related to the Property Office of Astan-e Qods and report your findings to me," entered the city and on 21 Shahrivar of this year [12 Sep 1989] ordered the arrest of a number of people on the charge of agitating. When the news of these arrests got out, people gathered in front of the police station and, finally, Mr. 'Alizadeh ordered the release of 13 people. The same night of the release of the 13 people, at 2:00 AM he ordered the arrest of another 20 people, of which only four were detained and the rest were not at their homes. These were released after interrogation. After this, without having gained any results and having angered the people as a result of the previous night's actions resulting in their complains about forceful entry of the police into their homes, Mr. 'Alizadeh returned to Mashhad.

The Provision Council of the province held another meeting which lead to the dispatch of a delegation to Sarakhs headed by the Public Prosecutor of Mashhad. The delegation, in a gathering at the Jame' Mosque, discussed certain matters in connection with the problems of Sarakhs' farmers and announced the findings of the investigation which took place during Esfand of last year. Later, in protest, the people started chanting the slogans, "We are hungry, we want bread, we want land." After this gathering ended, by the order of Mr. 'Alizadeh, many were arrested and some of them were held for two to eight days prior to the announcement of the recent decree.

The speaker added: After the arrival in Sarakhs of a delegation headed by Mr. 'Alizadeh on 23 of the past Shahrivar [14 September 1989], in newsletter number 1223 of the Ministry of Information it was reflected that, in addition to the arrest of the main agitators, the District Administrator had been fired and ordered to appear before the public magistrate. As a matter of fact, the orders for the appointment of Mr. Sadeqi-Farimani, the former District Administrator of Sarakhs, to become the District Administrator of Torbat-e Jam was issued on 22 of the past Shahrivar [13 September 1989] and presently he is working in that post. More important is that during the beginning of the current year, and months before this event, his appointment to the post of District Administrator of Torbat-e Jam was under discussion and it was regretful that Mr. 'Alizadeh questioned the decision of the then-Provincial Governor, His Excellency Engineer 'Abedini, for his correct decision which was within his legal jurisdiction. Therefore, I shall bring to the attention of Mr. 'Alizadeh that the respected

Prosecutor General, in the recent seminar on the Study of Judicial Issues of Esfahan Province, announced that "those from the judicial branch must be above the political trends" while you, regretfully, have clashed politically with the former District Administrator of Sarakhs and former Governor of Khorasan.

Mr. Qazizadeh then said: The Ministry of Interior and the Provincial Governorate are the only organizations qualified to rule on barring someone from governorate positions. Based on this, the ruling by the 25th branch of Penal Court 2 of Mashhad, in connection with the District Manager of Sarakhs, who was sentenced to one year imprisonment and five years bereavement from governorate posts, is meaningless because depriving people from employment in governmental organizations is not in the court's jurisdiction. Of course, the Ministry of Interior, through its Legal Affairs department, is following up on the clash between the Public Prosecutor of Mashhad and the District Administrator of Torbat-e Jam. Also, the people of Sarakhs are proud of such public servants as brother Mr. Sadeqi-Farimani, who is the defender of the deprived and persecuted people, and I, as their elected representative, convey their thanks and appreciation for his services in Sarakhs to the respected Minister of Interior and the respected Governor of Khorasan province. It is four months since Sarakhs has been deprived of a district administrator. As a result of methods adopted by Mr. 'Alizadeh, in dealing with the problems of Sarakhs' farmers, life has been made bitter for the citizens in connection with inauguration of a District Administrator's office for this township. I hope that during the celebrations marking the Decade of Dawn, a dedicated administrator and defender of the deprived people can be appointed for Sarakhs and the inauguration of the city's district administrator's office can take place.

In conclusion, he defended the deprived people of Sarakhs district and said:

The persecuted, deprived, and barefoot people of Sarakhs, whose sunburned and wrinkled faces move any Muslim, a people who bore the tyranny of monarchist agents for 60 years, a people who live in the proximity of rich and big natural gas fields and refineries are living with a piece of bread without even having drinkable water during sand storms in the desert and, at the same time, protect the borders of our country.

A brother from the field of education in Sarakhs region related the story that: A student from the afternoon school shift was constantly late coming to class. I asked him why he was always late. He responded that, "We are two brothers with only one pair of shoes. I must wait until my brother, who is the student in the morning shift, comes home from school so that I can get the shoes and come to school."

Such people deserve respect, and we must solve their problems. If some people think that such problems can be solved by creating fear and intimidation they are very wrong. In accordance with Principal 76 of the Constitution and Article 153 of the internal guidelines of the Islamic Consultative Majles, I request for an investigation of this matter in connection with the treatment of the people of Sarakhs by the public prosecutor of Mashhad and in regard to the problems of the people and the farmers of Sarakhs. I have already forwarded my request for an investigation to His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi and he has ordered an investigation by the judicial commission of the Majles. All of the documents presented here have been forwarded to the judicial commission, and I beseech the respectful members of this commission and the speaker to include this investigation in their agenda promptly.

Details of the Discussions

The first item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was examination of the report by the defense commission in regard to the bill pertaining to the salary, fringe benefits, savings, insurance, and health coverage of those eligible under the Law of The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the previous session, 13 articles of this bill were approved.

In continuation of the examination of this bill, the discussion began with Article 14. The approved articles are as follows:

Article 14: The families of the personnel who are discharged less than dishonorably with 20 years of service are entitled to receive a sum equivalent to three-fifths of their salary as indicated in Article 154 of the said law.

Note 1: The personnel who were discharged prior to the passing of the Armed Forces Law and their families who were receiving some compensation will also be entitled to the three-fifths of their salary as indicated in Article 154 of the said law.

Note 2: The personnel subject to this article will not be eligible to receive the sums mentioned in Article 169 of the Armed Forces Law for the unused leave four months before the approval of the Armed Forces Law.

Note 3: Those who have been assigned certain sums under the above mentioned titles—by judicial sources qualified to determine retirement salaries, pensions, or assessments—will be entitled to the new sums. However, the above mentioned sums shall not exceed the level indicated in this article.

It should be noted that per Mr. Mohammadi's suggestion, the following note was added under Article 14:

Note: From the time of passing of this law, payments of salaries, fringe benefits, and pensions to the law-enforcement and Armed Forces personnel will be solely subject to this law, and all other laws in regard to payment of salary shall be null and void.

The above note was put to a vote and passed by the deputies.

Article 15: The additional sum for the personnel who have large families—active, retired, martyrs, and disabled who are subject to the Armed Forces Law—shall be determined as follows and paid to them:

A: 2,000 rials for every dependent child, maximum three children.
B: 5,000 rials total for spouse and all other dependents.

Note 1: The personnel who reside in government-owned houses will not be eligible for large family compensation.

Note 2: The personnel whose spouse earns a salary, wage, pension, ration, or retirement fund from the ministries, institutions, government corporations, banks, city administrative offices, all institutions that their inclusion in the law requires mention of their names, revolutionary organizations and all other institutions attached to the government and which receive funds from the public budget or assistance from the government, will not qualify for use of funds mentioned in paragraph B of this article.

Note 3: Retirees, by considering the aforementioned notes, are eligible for 50 percent of the additional funds for personnel with large families.

Note 4: Recipients of martyrs' pensions can benefit from large-family funds, subject of this article, and the sums shall be disbursed in accordance with the regulations set forth by the Islamic Revolution Martyrs Foundation.

Note 5: The eligibility of dependents of those who are subject to this article shall be determined in accordance with the regulations set forth in Articles 164 and 165 of the Armed Forces Law.

Article 16: The housing assistance for active personnel not residing in government-owned housing shall be—considering the number of their dependents—equivalent to a sum resulting from the product of one-three hundredth of their minimum salary indicated in Article 1 of this law by the square meter of the area of the housing, in proportion to the number of dependents based on the following table:

Row	Number of Dependents	Area
1	Single	50 Sq. Meters
2	One person	70 Sq. Meters
3	Two people	90 Sq. Meters
4	Three people	100 Sq. Meters
5	Four people	130 Sq. Meters
6	Five people and More	150 Sq. Meters

Note: Housing assistance during 1368 will be paid in proportion to the available credits. As of the beginning of the year 1369 [20 March 1990] this shall increase up to 10 percent of the ceiling which has been forecast in this article. However, it shall be proportional to the approved increase in credits and rent for government-owned housing.

Article 17: In order to support pension funds, payments to all personnel under this law—active, retired, and pension recipients—shall be effected from the time of their first pension payment. It shall be equivalent to 10 percent of the first increase in salary, according to this law, compared to the sums of the deductions for pension during the months of active service which was used to calculate retirement salary, pension, and monthly payments before the implementation of this law. The deductions must be for a maximum of 360 months as follows:

A - First & second year, each year	five-thirtieth	Original Debt
B - Third & fourth year, each year	four-thirtieth	Original Debt
C - Fifth & sixth year, each year	three-thirtieth	Original Debt
D - Seventh & eighth year, each year	two-thirtieth	Original Debt
E - Ninth & tenth year, each year	one-thirtieth	Original Debt

Article 18: The cost of health services for those subject to paragraph "K" of Article 8 of the Armed Forces Law shall be paid to the Rehabilitation Services Organization as follows:

A: Equivalent to 2.5 times the rial coefficient for every individual who receives rehabilitation services.

B: Equivalent to two percent of the budget of beneficiary organizations.

C: Equivalent to one-half of the sums of paragraph A from the accidental insurance funds for subscribers to this fund.

Article 19: Contract personnel will be subject to the Armed Forces Personnel Insurance Law. Also, their share of payments to the insurance fund of the hired personnel shall be allocated from the budgets of the beneficiary organizations shall be corrected to show "two percent of the monthly salary of the personnel."

Article 20: Income of the savings funds of the hired employees, subject to this law, shall be as follows:

A - From the Salary of All Permanent and Member Employees	
1 - In the first decade of service	One thousand rials monthly
2 - In the second decade of service	One thousand five hundred rials monthly
3 - After the second decade	Two thousand rials monthly
B - Equivalent to the sums mentioned in paragraph "A" of the beneficiary organizations	

Article 21: The salary of conscripts during their service shall be the product of the rial coefficient, mentioned in Note 1 of Article 1 of this law, by salary figures as follows:

Row	Rank	Salary Number
1	Private or Recruit	15
2	Private, Second Class or First Apprentice Seaman	17
3	Private, First Class or Apprentice Seaman	20
4	Corporal or Seaman	25
5	Sergeant, Third Class or Petty Officer, Third Class	40
6	Sergeant, Second Class or Petty Officer, Second Class	150
7	Sergeant, First Class or Petty Officer, First Class	160
8	Chief Warrant Officer or Chief Petty Officer	180
9	Third Lieutenant or Commissioned Warrant Officer	200
10	Second Lieutenant or Ensign	250
11	First Lieutenant or Lieutenant Junior Grade	340
12	First Lieutenant, Medic, or Lieutenant Junior Grade, Medic	400

Note 1: The conscripted personnel shall achieve the above mentioned ranks after conclusion of their training period and in accordance with the need and existence of positions. The ranking system shall be as follows:

A. All conscripts lacking high-school diploma to one of the ranks of rows 1 through 5.
B. Those with high-school diploma to ranks 6 or 7.
C. Those with associate degrees to ranks 8 or 9.
D. Those with bachelors degree to rank 10.
E. Those with masters degree and non-medical doctorate degrees to rank number 11 and [medical] doctors to rank number 12.

Note 2: If conscripted personnel, due to the lack of need or if they lack the required qualifications to hold their respective ranks, will be given suitable lower ranks, down to the rank of private.

Note 3: The salaries of conscripted personnel during the training period shall be calculated as follows:

A. Conscripts of ranks 1, 2, 3, 4 Salary Number 15
B. Conscripts of ranks 5, 6, 7, 8 Salary Number 20
C. Conscripts of ranks 9, 10 Salary Number 25
D. Conscripts of ranks 11, 12 Salary Number 40

Note 4: The salary of the conscripted personnel shall be calculated based on their last educational diploma, within the above cross sections, and related articles in chapter eight of the Armed Forces Law.

Note 5: Conscripted personnel with high-school diploma who were given the rank of Sergeant, Third Class prior to the implementation of this law shall receive the same salary until the conclusion of their term.

Article 22: Fixed salary and fringe benefits of the personnel who from 1367/7/7 [29 September 1989] until their eligibility to receive salary under this law—having a minimum stay in a rank—are qualified for promotion in accordance with the regulations existing prior to the Armed Forces Law shall be paid to them from the time of eligibility and without observing other promotion protocols on the basis of salary number of the rank.

Note 1: Regulations for this article shall be in effect merely in regard to the salary unit during the aforementioned period only and does not constitute any changes in the rank, employment level, and salary factors of this law.

Note 2: Changes in the fixed salary and fringe benefits of positions mentioned in this article will not have any effect on calculation of other benefits due the personnel during the aforementioned period.

Article 23: Those eligible under this law will be qualified to receive salary and benefits only as of 1368/1/1 [21 March 1989.]

The Second Item on the Agenda

The second item on the agenda was the second round of consultations by the Trade and Distribution Commission regarding creation of necessary facilities to issue business permit for disabled veterans, freed POW's, and respected families of martyrs and MIA's.

Some deputies suggested shelving this plan for a six months period.

At the beginning, to explain this suggestion, Mr. Bahonar spoke and emphasized: Due to inherent problems in this plan and also presentation of the government's views in this area, this plan should be shelved for six months. Then Mr. 'Isa Vala'i, the chairman of the Trade Commission, opposed this suggestion and said: In case there are problems in the method of implementing this plan it can be corrected. Therefore, there is no reason to shelve this plan.

Then this suggestion was put to vote and was not passed.

According to reports from our correspondent, following non-ratification of the above suggestion, the following plan was put on the agenda of the Majles:

Article One: The Ministry of Commerce is obligated to issue business licenses for the following categories of individuals who have a rented or owned place of business, in accordance with paragraph Eight of Article 54 of The Trade Union Discipline Law:

A. Disabled veterans and freed POW's.
B. The head of a family whose son(s) has been martyred or is missing-in-action.
C. One of the close dependents of a martyr or MIA who are responsible for the extra income for their families.

Note One: The suggested facilities for the aforementioned applicants shall be consider for one time only after evaluation of qualifications and recommendation by the concerned organization.

Note Two: Unions are obligated to accept such individuals and provide them with all facilities available to their membership.

Note Three: Cities and towns which lack trade offices, the city administration office, or district administrator's office shall fulfill the above duties.

Article Two: Disabled veterans, freed POW's, and respected families of martyrs, subject of Article One, shall not have another job or be the recipient of fundamental concessions from other ministries.

Article Three: City administrations and other responsible organizations are also obligated to provide simultaneous trade union facilities to these individuals.

Article Four: Disabled veterans, freed POW's, and respected families of martyrs and MIA's, subject of Article One, who presently possess business permits can, with the consent of their respective organization, move from their present place of business to another town or province. In case their former business permit is made void, they shall be exempt from individual qualifications required for issuance of a new permit and it shall be granted to them.

Article Five: In case the type of profession being considered by an applicant requires special technical qualifications and the applicant lacks such technical knowledge, the permit may be issued upon designation of a qualified consultant.

Note: Validity of the permit is contingent upon employment of the consultant in the establishment.

Article Six: In order to solve the problems associated with the issuance of business permits to individuals subject to this law, a commission consisting of representatives of Ministries of Commerce and Interior and the Islamic Revolution Martyrs and Disabled Veterans Foundation under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce shall take the necessary decisions within the framework of the law and regulations. The decisions of the aforementioned commission shall be valid and binding on all organizations and offices.

Article Seven: The executive guidelines of the aforementioned articles shall be prepared within three months by the cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce with the Islamic Revolution Martyrs and Disabled Veterans Foundation and shall be approved by the Supreme Supervision Delegation.

The above article were passed by the deputies.

The Last Item on the Agenda

The last item on the agenda, correction of the 68 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] budget law in regard to payroll taxes for reconstruction purposes was presented to the Majles as a double-urgency motion.

In regard to this plan, at first, one of the signatory deputies presented some explanation and announced that 15 billion rials should be added to its ceiling. Then, the double urgency motion of the plan was put to a vote and was passed.

The Islamic Consultative Majles will hold its next open session next Sunday morning.

*Report on Proceedings of 21 Jan Majles Session

90OI0162A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 22 Jan 90 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majles Bureau:

The open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was held yesterday morning under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi and continued under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan. In this session, after recitation of some verses from the Holy Koran, Messrs. Majid Ansari, the deputy from Zarand; Eftekhari, the deputy from Fuman; and Farzpur, the deputy from Sume'eh Sara spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then, in a speech, Mr. Karrubi stated his sorrow regarding the recent events in Soviet Azerbaijan which led to the killing of a number of people. After the Majles speaker's speech, the deputies' memos to the country's executive officials were read and then the Majles went into session.

The first item on the agenda was the legal plan for repeated increase in the credit for item 823,050 of the National Budget Law for the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] which was approved by the deputies.

The second and last item on the agenda was the report of the Commission for Investigation of Questions which addressed the questions of Seyyed Hoseyn Qazizadeh from the Minister of Education and Training.

Also present at this open session was the speaker of the Pakistani Majles, accompanied by a delegation. They were welcomed by Mr. Karrubi.

Following is the text of the pre-agenda speeches, the deputies' memos, and details of the discussions:

Majid Ansari, Representative of the People of Zarand

The first pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Majid Ansari, representative of the people of Zarand who, in his speech, offered his congratulations on the occasion of the birthday of Sediqeh-Kobra, Fatemeh [daughter of the Prophet] and his noble son, his holiness the imam [Khomeyni].

He then continued with his speech, and in connection with the painful events of the world said: The painful and sad events taking place nowadays in the world are indicative of an international agreement and conspiracy against the true Islam of Mohammad and the Moslem society. (1) The events in Soviet Azerbaijan and a massacre that, regretfully, Mr. Gorbachev and the Russian government have conducted in the Moslem republics of the Soviet Union, especially in Azerbaijan. (2) The massacre of the Hezbollah nation in Lebanon and the destruction of their homes. Adopting silence towards crimes that are being committed these days against Muslims all around the world. These are all treacheries against Islam and history. It is an obligation on the shoulders of all Muslims, Islamic scholars, and leaders of Islamic countries to resist such beastly aggressions.

The speaker added: Mr. Gorbachev arrived on the new Soviet political scene with the claim of being a reformist. He invited the West to a peaceful coexistence, and offered peace to the world. He suggested dismantling the military alliances of NATO and the Warsaw Pact. He declared freedom for political parties in the Soviet Union and, in appearance, supported popular movements in Eastern European countries and the Christian Soviet republics bordering Europe. He tried to put on a democratic and popular mask. However, obvious contradictions between the deeds and slogans of the Soviet Union and the palace-sitters of the Kremlin raise the question, What was the agreement reached between the leaders of the East and the West in Malta? And why, after that dubious summit in Malta, have attacks on Muslims all over the world increased?

The righteous Muslim students in England are facing the most savage tortures. In France, the issue of combating Islam has escalated in the form of fighting against the Islamic cover [hejab] and girls who wear this. In the Soviet Union, their partner, a massive conspiracy is in the process. Mr. Gorbachev, in the imam's message to him, was warned by the imam to be careful not to fall on the lap of capitalism at the dusk of Marxism-Leninism. Is this not the American policy that is being implemented today in Soviet Azerbaijan? Is it not true that the innocent and Muslim people of Azerbaijan are being massacred by Russian soldiers, their homes are being destroyed and their blood is being spilt in the streets, and America approves of this massacre? Endorsement of this massacre by the West means that whatever is happening in the Soviet Azerbaijan is in line with Western interests, especially the great Satan America.

America has shown the green light for the shootings by the Soviet agents in Azerbaijan. We ask the rulers of Russia and the person of Mr. Gorbachev, "Why have you, with your claim to democracy, instigated the Armenians with fabricated charges to attack Muslims?" This is at a time when the persecuted Muslim people of Azerbaijan—who have been the subject of years of injustice—have witnessed that all their industrial facilities and major investments in the oil industry and other areas have been going to the Armenians. At first, a massacre was staged by Armenians and then the Soviet Army, under the guise of trying to calm the situation, entered the ring. In Nakhchevan and other parts of the Soviet Union people are being ruthlessly killed. We cannot remain quiet in the face of these killings and genocide that has begun—in the face of the silence of the international community and the endorsement of America—by the Russians.

Why don't the leaders of Islamic countries object? Why have the governments that have been benefiting from their seemingly anti-government posture, such as the Saudi royal family, Sabah royal family of Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Libya and Iraq—the free servant of the West—been silent? We declare our support for the Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan. As an international Muslim community, we cannot be indifferent in the face of such savageries. I beseech the respected government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the respected Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and all those concerned to take decisive political actions in regard to this blatant injustice which is in process so close to us. The Muslims of Azerbaijan must know that Iran, as the bastion for the defense of Islam and the Koran and the center of the Islamic revolution, cannot remain indifferent toward their fate, especially since these events are taking place along the Iranian boarders.

We are pleased that the Muslims of Azerbaijan are coming to Iran. However, I warn the brave people of Azerbaijan, from both sides of the border, to keep a watchful eye so that agents of the enemy cannot infiltrate and, with suspicious movements, present an inaccurate picture of the Islamic revolution and our Muslim people.

In another part of his speech, Mr. Majid Ansari referred to the events in Lebanon and said: Regretfully, the situation there is very sad. Today in Lebanon, the Hezbollah—this bastion of resistance against the Zionism of Israel, the force that has passed its tests successfully by standing up to the multi-national looters like the rock of Gibraltar and has been the impenetrable shield of Lebanon—is the subject of a genocide by the Phalangist agents of Zionists, Michel 'Awn, and other agents of world arrogance and America.

Also, they are being massacred by the Amal movement, in my opinion, through suspicious moves by the Nabih Birri group. Islamic scholars and Hezbollah members have been arrested in southern Lebanon. Some have been tortured to death and their houses are being demolished in imitation of the Israeli methods. Hezbollah has been pushed back in southern Lebanon and, therefore, the way has been cleared for the arrival of Israel.

The forces of Yasir 'Arafat, these conciliators with Zionism, have placed themselves in the middle, between the Hezbollah and Israeli forces, rather than joining hands with Hezbollah. I suggest to our Palestinian brothers to avoid leaders who have subscribed to the shameful Camp David Treaty and join the ranks of Hezbollah to form an impenetrable defense against the

Israeli influence. Hezbollah is an undeniable reality in Lebanon. Southern Lebanon belongs to and is the home of Hezbollah. I am sorry that the Syrian government, under pressure of Arab reactionaries and world arrogance, has become a party to the suppression of Hezbollah. May God forbid that this front-line country in the steadfast group backs down in favor of the Camp David Treaty. Unfortunately, we have evidence to this effect and resumption of diplomatic relations between Syria and Egypt is an indication of this heavy conspiracy.

The representative of the people of Zarand then continued: Regretfully, destruction of and tampering with the thoughts, ideas, and decrees of the imam continues. Last week, in response to the objection of 128 Majles deputies in regard to tampering with the imam's speech, officials of the daily RESALAT formally apologized and said that it had been a mistake. However, again the Wednesday's issue of the paper had ridiculed and even insulted this effective and clear decree of the imam in connection with the proper game of chess as a mind-building instrument. They have said about the imam's decree that it is an arrogant explanation. I beseech the distinguished scholars, the leadership of the revolution, and the scholars of Qom—His Holiness Ayatollah Sane'i, His Holiness Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli, His Holiness Ayatollah Meshkini—and other scholars and distinguished students of the imam to form an organization to formulate the religious principals and political views of his holiness the imam to be taught in theological centers and universities. It is less than seven months from the passing of the imam that such unconscious elimination of the imam has begun in newspapers.

(Mr. Karrubi commented about Mr. Ansari's assertions that: Incidentally, the religious opinion of Mr. Azari-Qomi is the same as the imam.)

In conclusion Mr. Ansari emphasized: Of course I have nothing to do with individuals, but this is as a result of a trend which I hope will be stopped so that we do not have to witness the desecration of the exalted position of jurisprudence [velayat].

Mohammad Hoseyn Eftekhari, Representative of the People of Fuman

Mr. Eftekhari, the representative of the people of Fuman, was the second pre-agenda speaker. At the outset, he pointed out the fate-determining events during the month of Bahman [21 January-19 February] of every year since the revolution and said:

Every year, the month of Bahman is a reminder of the fate-making events which light the glorified and victorious paths of 22 Bahman 57 [11 February]. The commemoration of the Decade of Dawn is approaching, and it is fitting for us to evaluate the past in a realistic manner and with a truth-searching eye to see which revolutions we have gone through and what our mission for the future is. Far from deviated paths and ill thoughts, what is considered to be faith and eternal personal duty is that we continue on the path of our wise leader, the great imam, and make his prophet-like commands our guide. We shall guard the principal of jurisprudence like a shining jewel in Islamic teachings. We shall consider the greatness of this teaching above and beyond all social, political, and economic factors within our society.

Our generous nation approaches the celebrations of the Decade of Dawn in a mix of sadness and happiness. Sadness, because this is the first year that we commemorate the Decade of Dawn without our dear imam, while the pain of this loss is still with us and the burning of it is not yet forgotten. But happiness because the jurisprudence has been passed to another capable hand and son of the prophet. Ayatollah Khamene'i has taken on the leadership of Muslims and—if during the early days after the passing of the imam there were some shadows of concern over our Islamic country—now an air of optimism has replaced the worries. Prosperity and instant success have become possible and unavoidable. Therefore, in thanking such Godly blessings, the Majles deputies like all other people will obey the orders of the jurisprudent, emphasize on their covenant and guarantee it with their blood and life.

In following the orders of the exalted leadership, unequivocal and all-encompassing support for the exalted position of presidency, his excellency Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, is an obligation. We do not know a better proof and document for urgency and acceptability of such obligation as the words of the exalted leadership.

He added: At a time when the Five-Year Plan for rehabilitation, presented by the government, was given a majority of votes by the deputies and the Majles has proven its high social conscious by approving this plan, it is in the interest of the revolution and for ensuring the fate of the country to endorse and hold dear, in unison and with determination, the efforts of the government and responsible officials. We must not hold back our cooperation at a time when the government is determined to achieve self-sufficiency, independence, and economic expansion by way of exploiting all its experiences and means. It is expected of the executive officials to continue with their efforts to respond to the needs of the people.

In a part of his speech, Mr. Eftekhari pointed out the problems facing his constituency and said: During the current year, as a result of drought and water shortages, a number of rice and tea farmers of Fuman district have suffered heavy losses. The respected Ministry of Agriculture should not deny them assistance in order to lessen their losses. The working season for farmers is approaching. Providing farm equipment, fertilizers, pesticides, and spare parts is among essential points that must be adequately planned. Another issue in connection with agricultural necessities is repair and sand-spreading on rural roads and providing water for agricultural purposes. I request from the respected minister of energy to consider building small dams on the region's

rivers in order to alleviate the farmers' worries about water shortages in the future.

In conclusion, the representative of the people of Fuman gave some notices to the executive officials.

Mohammad Farzpur, Representative of the People of Astara

The third and final pre-agenda speaker of yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Farzpur from the Astara constituency. In the beginning of his speech, he referred to the events in Soviet Azerbaijan and said: I do not intend to report on or analyze the events taking place in this region. In regard to these events, I suggest to the officials of the country implementation of a united and a single policy.

It is natural to assume that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Security Council will adopt a posture and give their opinions about the events on the other side of the border of our Islamic country. However, as the representative of the people of the border township of Astara, which is hosting thousands of Russian Muslims, I suggest to the respected officials to prepare the facilities needed for receiving these Muslim guests. I also remind them to pay more attention, economic and rehabilitation, to this border township.

To the cultured and Muslim people of that region, the representative of the people of Astara said: As you have proven your intellectual and cultural maturity during various stages of the revolution, you must show hospitality and kindness in dealing with the Muslim people of the Soviet Union who are our dear guests. Also, due to the fact that many people from various parts and with different backgrounds and ideas have rushed to this township, I suggest that you show your awareness and alertness more than ever so that, God forbid, the honorable and Muslim citizens of Astara do not end up being blamed for the wrongdoings of others, which may be deliberate.

Details of the Discussions

The first item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was discussion of the legal plan for an additional increase in the credit of item 503082 of the 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] National Budget Law. The double urgency motion of this plan was approved on 68/10/27 [17 January 1989].

Messrs. Akrami, Salehabadi, Movahhedi-Saveji, Ala', and Malek-Asa spoke as proponents and Messrs. Astaneh, Harati, Hoseyni-Shahrudi, Harati [as published], Yusefpur, and Alviri spoke in opposition to this plan. After comments by the government representative, the execution of the plan was put to a vote and was passed.

Then the Majles entered into the second round of consultations regarding the plan and Article 1, after some changes, was passed as follows:

Article 1: From the passing of this law, the credit allocated for number 503082, subject of paragraph "B" of Note 16 of the National Budget Law for the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] shall be increased by 15 billion rials which shall be provided from the decrease in current credits and following rehabilitation corrections.

"Classified table number 111517, was a 1368 correction which was reduced from 10 billion rials to 8 billion rials. The final figure thus becomes 2 billion rials. Item 1120004 shall be reduced by 4.5 billion rials and item 105009 shall be reduced by 3.5 billion rials."

Note: Solely the received income taxes until the end of Bahman 1368 [19 February 1990] shall be allocated and used in accordance with guidelines of paragraph "B" of Note 16 from the National Budget Law for 1368.

The Last Item on the Agenda

The last and final item on the agenda was a review of the report by the Investigating Questions Committee in regard to the questions of Mr. Seyyed Hoseyn Qazizadeh from the Minister of Education and Training.

Report of the Committee

The report from the Investigating Questions Committee to the Islamic Consultative Majles re: the question of Mr. Seyyed Hoseyn Qazizadeh—respected representative of Fariman, Sarakhs, and Ahmadabad—from the respected Minister of Education and Training, Dr. Mohammad Ali Najafi, which was sent to the Investigating Questions Committee. After receiving the question and the pertinent documents, the committee held a meeting. In the meeting, at first, the question was set forth for discussion.

(1) In appointing director generals, why did the ministry give priority to outside sources? (2) What are your standards and criteria in appointing or removing director generals and provincial administrators? (3) What has been your method of implementing standards in appointing or removing administrators of provincial offices?

Mr. Qazizadeh added that the management changes—the most important being deputy ministers—which have profound effects on the organizational body of the ministry have not been for the better. If so, the minister should present proof to the committee. In fact, such changes have become the cause of weakness, in addition to factionalism and ideology. Some letters that were sent to Mr. Qazizadeh-Hashemi, and were given to the committee, were read in the meeting. The general theme of the letters were why has the director general been removed and why has another person been named in his place? And, this change was motivated by factionalism. Some officials of the Ministry of Education and Training, who have been removed from their posts, have sent some letters to the committee and Mr. Qazizadeh, but whatever was chosen by the respected deputy was tabled for discussion and investigated.

The respected Minister of Education and Training, Dr. Najafi, stated that, firstly, appointments and removals are within the authority of the minister and there is nothing against the law. The point about bringing a deputy from outside, I must say that I have brought only one deputy out of 13 deputies from outside. We have tens of posts in the headquarters region and outside of it. We have brought in only six from outside the Ministry of Education and Training. All of these gentlemen are from the university or the Ministry of Higher Education. These people are better educated and more capable of planning. The Minister stated, "The deputies must encourage us to bring in people from a higher echelon, capable of planning and with experience, that are capable of bringing about real changes in the ministry. If we can absorb the stronger forces, we can be proud of our efforts and will not fear criticism. Our criteria to select managers is dedication, management capability, and education. People who have earned high scientific degrees." He added: "We try to ensure that they work harder, not political work and factional activities, but scientific and practical work." After questions were asked and answers were heard, the conclusion of the meeting was announced. The documents from both sides, in regard to their claims, were received and investigated. In the session of 1368/8/30 [21 November 1989] the results were put to a vote and the majority of present committee members considered Dr. Najafi's answers adequate.

The head of the Investigating Questions Committee

Seyyed Mehdi Tabataba'i

Also in this session, the credentials of Dr. 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, from the Karaj and Eshtehard constituency, were tabled and approved by the deputies.

The Islamic Consultative Majles will hold its open session tomorrow morning.

The Deputies' Memos to the Country's Executive Officials

- Mr. Astaneh, the deputy from Shazan and Sarband: To the minister of post, telegraph, and telephone for the investigation of the post situation in Hendudar district.
- Mr. Khosravi, the deputy from Abadeh: To the minister of agriculture for expediting the initiation of the Suriyat raisin factory in Babanat.
- Messrs. Afrazideh and Taha'i, deputies from Nowshahr, Tonekabon, and Ramsar: To the First Vice President, the minister of energy, and the Planning and Budget Organization for allocating credit to build three dams in Chalus, Cheshmeh-Kileh, Tonekabon, and Ramsar regions.
- Four deputies from West Azerbaijan: To the petroleum minister for immediate provision of fuel for the cities in the province. Inclusion of the gas distribution network of Tabriz, Miandoab, Bukan, Mahabad, Naqdeh, and Piranshahr in the first Five-Year Plan.

*Report on Proceedings of 23 Jan Majles Session

90OI0163A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 24 Jan 90 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majles Bureau:

The open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was held yesterday morning under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan. In this session, after recitation of some verses from the Holy Koran, Messrs. Partow, the deputy from Khodabandeh, and Khalkhali, the deputy from Qom, spoke as pre-agenda speakers and then the Majles began its session.

According to RESALAT's Parliamentary correspondent, the only agenda item during the session was continuation of the investigation of some items from the Trade Union Law. Some items of this law were passed by the deputies.

Also, during this session, a letter signed by more than 160 deputies in connection with the recent problems in the Soviet Union was read.

The following is the text of the pre-agenda speeches and the details of the discussions:

Morovatollah Partow, the Representative of the People of Khodabandeh

The first pre-agenda speaker of yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Morovatollah Partow, the representative of the people of Khodabandeh. In his speech, he stated: As we admire and appreciate the courage and bravery of Mr. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, we expect him to give serious attention to the rights of the Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan. In this regard, it is essential that the Soviet leaders avoid resorting to violence and bloodshed. We also declare that the Islamic nation of Iran supports the Soviet Muslims and world Muslims under any and all circumstances and will be concerned about their rights.

The representative of the people of Khodabandeh, in another part of his speech—in reference to American conspiracies against the Islamic Republic—emphasized the unity of the Islamic nation under the leadership of the jurisprudent [velayat-e vali] as the most important factor and said:

The Islamic revolution needs solidarity among Muslims in order to further its goals. In order to achieve this important task, the significant tool is unity under the banner of leadership of the jurisprudent, the true successor of the late imam. This is one of the most effective factors which will convince Iraq to accept UN Resolution 598, and one day Saddam will be subdued by this reality and fact.

The speaker then added: Efforts by His Holiness Ayatollah Yazdi, the respected chief of the judiciary, to reform the judicial system and expedite the judicial process is indeed commendable. I hope under his administration justice spreads in a way that the oppressed can be freed from the injustices of the ruthless and cruel. The

special attention of the chief of judicial branch to the judicial office of Qaydar is appreciated by the experts.

In another part of his speech, Mr. Partow referred to the problems of his constituency and said: The township of Qaydar is one of the most helpless regions of Iran. The Muslim people of this region are caught in a double injustice. In this city, the students' grades and dealings with the respected families of martyrs are functions of factional policies. Unjust clashes and quarrels with the public by the deputy governor, lieutenant governors, mayors, and their lackeys have made life very difficult for the people. The qualified governor of this city region lasted only 83 days as governor. It is appropriate for me to thank Haji Bayat who recommended this governor.

He then referred to the disrespectful attitude towards the respected martyrs' families, the Revolutionary Guard personnel, and the farmers and said: In the Qaydar region, instead of respect towards these dear ones, abuse, assault, and beatings are being dealt out. Although the politicians' policy is in support of the farmers and agriculture, the agricultural prizes for the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] have not yet been awarded to the farmers, because they cast their votes for me, although we are 11 months into the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990]. The lack of respect towards the people and the abuses are being directed from the highest executive authority in the province. Therefore, it is appropriate for me to ask His Excellency Mr. Karrubi, as a representative of the exalted leadership in the Martyrs' Foundation, to investigate the grievances of the martyrs' families who are the subject of disrespect and abuse.

He then added: Dear Dr. Najafi, rid the students and their parents from the evil of the officials of the education and training office of this city region and its districts. I beseech the respected minister of the interior, His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri—for whom I have a great deal of respect—to eradicate all sources of unrest and unpleasant clashes by ending the services of the deputy governor, lieutenant governors, and the mayor whom I mentioned. As a representative of the martyr-nurturing people of Qaydar, I am entitled to ask him to put an end to the long miseries of the people and hope that my request is accepted. At this point, as a sign of my respect for the minister of the interior, I will not mention the specifics of what is taking place in the Zanjan governorate and thank him for his special attention to the problems of Qaydar. Also, I ask His Excellency Imam Jamarani to pay more attention to the problems of Qaydar and do not allow such bad treatment—which is not befitting the Islamic Republic regime nor any other regime—of the Muslim people of Qaydar, who are dedicated to the cause of the revolution.

All of the officials and the vast organization that has been spread across the country claim to be in the service of the Islamic nation. I, also, believe this. However, I declare that not only do the organization and officials in the city region of Qaydar not serve the people but, by their harassment of the people, they create an atmosphere of suspicion towards the regime. It is believed that if the respected minister of the interior cures the problems of the head of the province, then the city region of Qaydar will also be cured.

Most of the city's people, as I gave you the details, face the hatred and anger of these gentlemen because they voted for me. I request from the country's officials to arrange so that freedom to elect—which is an honorable achievement of the Islamic revolution and a most valued memento of our dear imam—does not become the subject of abuse and disrespect by ignorant or spiteful people. If such behavior by these people persists, in order to avoid subjecting the people to more harassment and to amplify their voices, I will have to resign as a deputy of the Islamic Consultative Majles. I believe the situation in Qaydar is an exception in Iran. The people are under pressure from all sides because of their participation in the elections that took place 21 months ago. I declare from behind this podium at the Islamic Consultative Majles that I will defend the rights of the people, in line with my duties and with the help of God, until the final moment as a deputy—although some officials have ordered that I be kept out of my constituency by blocking the roads, despite being pursued by the agents of the Qaydar Islamic Revolutionary Committee, although the court in Qaydar is constantly trying to bring trumped-up charges against me, even though there are conspiracies against my friends and associates, although the villages in my constituency are denied teachers and schools, even though the prizes of the farmers who support me are not given to them, and considering that attending the affairs of the farmers and villagers is subject to bureaucratic lapses. The appointment of sincere and dedicated officials will solve all of these problems of the people of this region. I hope that calm, security, and ensuring the freedom of election can be restored by these appointments.

At the conclusion of his speech, the representative of the people of Khodabandeh and Qaydar requested from Mr. Rafsanjani's government to identify and appoint qualified and suitable people to the executive posts in the city regions and districts.

Sadeq Khalkhali, the Representative of the People of Qom

Mr. Khalkhali, the representative of the people of Qom, was the second pre-agenda speaker. At the beginning of his speech, in regard to the recent problems in the Soviet Union, he stated:

One million people in Soviet Azerbaijan (Baku) participated in the funeral of the people who had been killed by gun shots. We share the grief of the people of Azerbaijan. This is why some deputies are wearing black today and I am wearing a black cloak. It is to show that we share their grief. From the outset of the October revolution in the Soviet Union and its continuation to the Stalin era, 10 million Muslim people behind the Iron Curtain were fed

to the fire of the war between Russia and Hitler's Germany, while another 10 million were destroyed inside the Soviet Union by Stalin's order. Among them are Ayatollah Sheikh Ghani and his other combatants, Azerbaijani scholars, Turkestani scholars, the scholars of Turkmenistan, Kirghiz and Tajik scholars were all liquidated by Stalin's orders, without any trace of them left. The Muslim youth of the Soviet Union have strengthened the Soviet regime with their blood. All of the lands of Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania, Hungary, and the gates of Berlin are smeared with the blood of these youths. These have been very difficult problems inside the Soviet Union.

The speaker then continued: Brezhnev, who took power after Khrushchev, ordered the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Red Army and stood firm behind Iraq. These were some of the issues that the noble people and Muslims of the Soviet Union despised. This was why when it came to be Mr. Gorbachev's turn, in order to cure this pain and in order to eradicate oppression, the lack of coordination, and the Russian racial discrimination, he announces perestroika and glasnost. You see that the winds of freedom blew and caused the Berlin Wall to fall. East Europe achieved freedom, and Gorbachev appeared in the gathering of a crowd in Lithuania and announced that a new law will be passed to guarantee the freedom of the people. You witnessed yesterday that the people had formed a 500-kilometer human chain to say we want independence. Independence is not being demanded only by Azerbaijanis, although we do not know what form of independence they are seeking. We did not expect Mr. Gorbachev to send the Soviet Red Army into Azerbaijan as a prelude to an invasion—and although there have been many massacres by Stalin and Lenin and so many have been sacrificed—and initiate a new wave of killings. Regretfully, Mr. Gorbachev says these are a bunch of Islamic fundamentalists. Mr. Bush, Miterrand, Thatcher, and Israel all accuse us in Iran, Lebanon, and Palestine of being Islamic fundamentalists. What kind of a talk is this by Mr. Gorbachev? I request the country's officials and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ask from Mr. Gorbachev what he means by calling us Islamic fundamentalists which, incidentally, has been used by America, Britain, and France and now by him? Islamic fundamentalism is the Islamic truth. They want to eradicate Islam. You cannot confront 70 million Muslims inside the Soviet Union. Instead of facilitating another massacre, you must help take away the Russian domination of the 70 million Muslims of the Soviet Union ensuring their freedom, development, comfort, and eradicating racial discrimination. What are the Azeris and Azerbaijanis saying? The people of Azerbaijan fought in Chaldoran and made sacrifices under the banner of religion. They fought by the religious decree of Seyyed Mohammad Mojahed, Mirza Qomi, and Saheb Mostanad, participated in the war and made sacrifices. These are the same brave people who consider religion above all else. They will never deviate from the path they have chosen and we support their position. I am speaking on my own behalf and not for anyone else. I am solely responsible for saying these things.

The speaker also added: Under the present circumstances, we need solidarity as prescribed by his holiness the late imam and the exalted leader of our revolution, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i. Now you see that some of the defunct fanatical religious people who have been trained in the school of Hojjatieh and others are forming groups under the guise of supporting the supreme jurisconsult and questioning the noblest institutions of the revolution, the Islamic Consultative Majles. In the Feyzieh school [a theological school], a child speaks on behalf of a number of these ignorant, uninformed, and spiteful people.

As we know there was a jeweler among them who participated in the election and was defeated but now is instigating under the guise of supporting the leadership. They have the audacity to attack Ayatollah Ardebili and then say that the Majles has had no rights. This is the exact interpretation of what was said. You see, the Majles is the essence of the people and, according to the imam, above all affairs. The leadership has stated that the deputies are right for not wanting to pass over the Constitution, and if they do we agree with them. The leadership has said that the deputies also want the Constitution to be implemented and they have the right to question and to speak. Besides all of this, Friday prayer leaders all across the country have always urged unity and solidarity. Someone in Shiraz or somewhere else makes an invitation for disunity, speaks bigger than himself and at wrong times. Sir, we know that you have worn out your shoes on the road to Shariatmadari's missionary center. Worse is when someone in this Majles, given a dictated letter and who has the reputation of being security during the shah's time, in some way comes here and say that, yes, revolutionaries, I don't know what happened to so and so. Hearsayers! Who are the hearsayers? Hearsayers are the ones who the imam said should be flagellated. They intend to question number one revolutionaries based on claims of hearsayers. We will not remain quiet.

Then, Mr. Khalkhali in reference to the arrival of a delegation belonging to Amnesty International said: In the first place, we suggest to officials to take this Amnesty International to our cemeteries and show them the graves of Dr. Beheshti, Bahonar, Qoddosi, Saduqi, Qazi-Tabataba'i, Ayatollah Ashrafi-Esfahani, Motahari, and the graves of all these martyrs who have been killed by the hands [of Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization]. Now these gentlemen act as if we owe them something! We will get revenge from these. You want to take up arms and cut the throat of fasting people and then, with his blood, brag around the world and try to dominate us. We will get revenge from you. We will imprison you and kill you. This is a godly order. We will retaliate against you. We will not sit quietly.

The representative of the people of Qom then made some statements directed at the people of Azerbaijan in Turkish [the Azeri language], the translation of which is as follows:

You Muslim Azerbaijani people must know that the people of Iran are behind you. The Majles sympathizes with you and will never deviate from this position. You are a brave people and have always given your blood and your youth in the path of Islam. Now the people of Iran stand behind you. The highest officials of the country support you and will not leave you alone. The people of Iran, the government of Iran has never sent arms there and has never armed them with weapons. They are defending their honor, mosques, Koran, and their religion. The West is afraid of the 70 million people of the Soviet Union uniting with Iran.

In conclusion, he expressed hope that, God willing, the situation improves and the people of Nakhchevan, Baku, Ganjeh, and other regions in the Soviet Union can breathe easier and can gain their independence, greatness, and their religion.

Details of the Discussions

The only item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was the investigation of the second round of discussions by the Trade and Distribution Affairs Commission regarding the correction of some articles of the Trade Union Law.

Article 8: The following note shall be added to Article 4:

Note: All trade unions are to be divided into the following four groups:

1. Production Trades: Trades that their activities and creations result in physical or chemical changes of substances.

2. Technical Services Trades: Trades that their activity result in the correction of a malfunction, defect, or repair of a good. Also, one that requires technical qualification for its employment.

3. Distribution Trades: Trades that concern presentation of goods from imports or domestic production without any changes in the quality of the goods.

4. Service Trades: Trades that by their activities fulfill part of the needs of the society and these activities are not resulting in the transformation of material to products or technical services.

In regard to this plan, Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji suggested the deletion of this article.

Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji (Explanation of the Suggestion)

In explanation of his suggestion, Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji said:

The basis of this plan is to divide the trades into into two groups, distribution and service trades and production and technical trades. The four types mentioned in this plan means that the gentlemen must have four kinds of trade associations and four kinds of central trades councils. Then, how come they have divided the trades into four categories, but in formation there are only two? I believe there is no need for this and the decision taken by the commission is more of a political nature rather than a trade, legal, and economic one. As we have seen in the past, before being approved by the Majles, in some elections this issue has been taken advantage of. I believe it is not in the interest of the country and the regime that we, for some political considerations, create such divisions among the trades. It is possible that these two groups develop disagreements in the future. What is being done about them in the country has caused many people to be unhappy. I request that the deputies vote for deletion of this article.

Mr. Vala'i (Opponent of the Suggestion)

Mr. 'Isa Vala'i, the head of the Trade and Distribution Affairs Commission, in opposition to this suggestion, said: I regret that our brothers were going to mull over the efforts of the commission by planning to shelve the plan and, since there was not enough votes to destroy that plan, they want to destroy it by eliminating this article.

He added: the reason for creating two centers is that now there exists a production and distribution trade. The Tehran Central Council of Trades consists of 17 members of which 10 or 11 are from production trades. From 120 unions, approximately over 60 of them belong to production trades. This is a reality which is not being considered. Your assertion that since it has been divided into four sections then four associations must be established, is correct and these four sections already exist. Then how come you are defending the establishment of one association. In his meeting with the governors general, one of the issues that the respected president emphasized was that for primary solution to many problems we must take the production factor seriously. In accordance with this program we saw proven that the production trade does exist in this country. The government provides them with raw material and, at the time of distribution, they are under governmental supervision.

He then stated: About the assertion that this plan has political overtones, indeed your own suggestion (Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji) has political overtones. If you would move a little more realistically, you would not make this suggestion. When you suggested the shelving of the plan, that was a political move. This next move by you is also a political one. You may say that some of these groups were being used as propaganda tools. Why didn't you consider the other side of the issue? You might claim that it necessitates creating division. On the contrary, these two trade groups are like two brothers who tried but cannot get along and have been trying to scratch each others eyes out for the past 10 years. You surely know when this problem started and was dragged before the late imam. It has not yet been solved. Now, if these two

groups or two brothers cannot get along, then we must split their accounts. Gentlemen, this is eradicating the differences.

Dr. Sheybani (Proponent of the Suggestion)

Dr. Sheybani was a proponent of the suggestion who said: I would like to attract the attention of the respected deputies to this issue that, in order to pass the recent section, the commission intends to eliminate the Council of Trades. The ultimate point is that members of the Trade Council are qualified people and the government does not want the trades to become part of the government. It is not in the interest of the country and the national economy that our economic policy becomes government controlled. Therefore, it is very good to eliminated this article.

After explanations by the reporter of the commission and the representative of government, the suggestion to eliminate Article 8 was put to a vote and did not pass.

Article 9: Article 29 shall be corrected as follows: The scale and method of collecting income from the trade unions shall be in proportion to the condition of the union, type of jobs, and the respective city. Also, the sums to be deposited by trade unions into the account of the Trades Affairs Association shall be determined in accordance with the guidelines prepared by the Ministry of Commerce in consultation with the Trade Affairs Associations and approved by the High Supervisory Council.

Note: Trade organizations are obligated to deposit their received sums in one of the public sector banks.

Article 10: The following article shall be added to the beginning of chapter five: The Trades Affairs Association shall be formed from elected members of the Central Trade Unions or Trade Unions in one of the following two ways:

A: Trade affairs association for production services trades.

B: Trade affairs association for distribution services trades.

Note 1: In regard to all issues in this law which the Trades Affairs Association has been mentioned, duties and authorities shall be separated in accordance with the regulations for Trade Affairs Associations for production and technical services trades or distribution and service trades. All belongings and existing personnel shall be divided, in proportion, between these two associations. Supervisory commissions will be the authority in resolving disagreements.

Note 2: The list of all trades and trade unions of production/technical services and distribution/services shall be drawn up and separated within two months by the High Supervisory Commission. Subsequently, all unions are obligated to introduce their representatives to form the Trade Affairs Association, and supervisory commissions are obligated to act within a maximum of one month to hold elections for the said associations. After implementation of the said phases, all previous associations will be dissolved.

Article 11: Paragraphs 2 and 6 of Article 33 shall be corrected as follows:

2: Suggestion and regulation of fiscal, employment, administrative, training, and organizational regulations of trade organizations to the High Supervisory Council for its approval.

6: Supervision to ensure the implementation of technical, hygienic, safety, security, insurance and all other regulations associated with the qualifications of trade units shall be decided by the appropriate officials. Also there shall be cooperation with responsible officials for implementation of the aforesaid regulations by the unions.

The above items were passed by the deputies.

Article 12: Two notes shall be added to Article 35 as Notes 4 and 5.

Note 4: In case of a vote by the supervision commission regarding the necessity of issuing a business permit, avoidance by the trade union to issue the permit shall be against the law and the supervisory commission will act in accordance with the letter of Paragraph 4 from Article 54 of this law.

Note 5: Trades which fall short of the number required for formation of a trade union or lack a trade union and are not suited for inclusion in another trade union, shall receive a business permit in accordance with this law through a fellow union to be determined by the supervisory commission.

Article 12 was passed.

Continuation of the investigation of this plan was postponed to the next session to be held on Wednesday.

A Letter By More Than 160 Deputies Regarding the Recent Events in the Soviet Union

Legal And Parliamentary Bureau:

In a letter to the leadership cadre of the Soviet Union regarding the recent events in Soviet Azerbaijan, over 160 deputies of the Islamic Consultative Majles warned them against being influenced by the trickeries of world arrogance, particularly the blood-thirsty America. The text of the letter is as follows:

Now, after the passing of one year from the historic message of His Holiness the late Imam Khomeyni to the leader of the Soviet Union, the world is witnessing the realization of his holiness the imam's predictions and the appearance of new political conditions in the world and, particularly, in the Soviet Union. This has resulted in the appearance of a ray of hope in the hearts of all people and friends indicating that the chains of godlessness—

which had enslaved many people during 70 years and had separated them from their natural beliefs—are being torn apart. In connection with this historic phenomenon and the return of mankind to his nobility, the Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan have demonstrated their desire to return to the arm of Islam and regaining their lost identity by staging demonstrations and gatherings in their towns and boarder regions with the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is the shining center of Islam in the present era. Regretfully, agents of world arrogance, as usual, plan to exploit this to their own advantage by conducting adverse propaganda and imperialistic hullabaloo in the world arena, and present this noble Islamic move as a strong nationalistic phenomenon and thus cause a confrontation between the leadership of the Soviet Union and the risen Muslims. This has caused the bloodshed and killing of a number of innocent and freedom-seeking people. The world arrogance being led by the criminal America, ever so ready to muddy the waters and exploit events for its own advantage, gives its seal of approval to this inhuman act. All Muslims of the world, particularly the Muslim people of Iran, with their deep sense of religious and human duty, in adherence to the teachings of Islam and their late imam and following the exalted leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, are deeply worried about the recent events. We, deputies of the Islamic Consultative Majles, alongside the Muslims of the world, deeply regret the pain and sufferings inflicted on the Muslim people of Soviet Azerbaijan and offer our condolences to them. We warn the leaders of the Soviet Union not to fall under the trickeries of the world arrogance and the criminal America and follow a conciliatory approach toward the Muslim people of the Soviet Union whose hearts have been enlightened by Islam. They must be aware that violence will not only not solve anything, but will complicate the situation more and raise questions about Mr. Gorbachev's perestroika.

Nepal

'Widespread' Demonstrations Protest Political Ban

BK1003003490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1743 GMT 9 Mar 90

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, March 9 (AFP)—Riot police arrested at least 13 political activists Friday [9 March] during widespread demonstrations throughout the country, a senior Home Ministry source said. But banned party sources said more than 50 people had been arrested, at least 30 of them in the capital alone, adding that reports of serious clashes had begun to reach here late in the afternoon.

Activists from Nepal's banned political parties held demonstrations and burned effigies of the country's no-party panchayat system [as received] in Kathmandu and elsewhere in the country as part of their campaign against the 30-year-old system. The banned Nepali Congress and other opposition parties jointly launched a protest against the political system with a mass rally on February 18, demanding the restoration of muti-party politics and human rights in Nepal.

Demonstrations were held Friday in Kirtipur, Hatigainda, Chetrapati and Indrachowk, in the inner lanes of Kathmandu and at Tribhuvan University Hospital at Maharajgung, party sources said. Protestors carried the banned parties' banners.

At Bhaktapur and Lalitpur, two Marxist-held satellite townships outside Kathmandu, panchayat effigies were burnt in the early morning.

At Morang College, students burnt a panchayat effigy although the campus was surrounded by riot police. Effigies were also burnt in Palpa, Chitwan and Pokhara, banned party sources said.

However, activists failed to hold demonstrations or public meetings in Kathmandu as planned because of the strong presence of riot police armed with with carbines, long sticks and bamboo shields.

In Janakpur, at least 12 people were arrested for burning effigies.

A banned party source said that in Morang, 290 kilometres (180 miles) southeast of Kathmandu, activists held a torchlit demonstration Thursday night [8 March], denouncing the panchayat system and shouting slogans such as "Long live democracy" and "We will bring democracy at any cost".

Journalists Purushotam Dahal and Ram Rijhan Yadav were arrested within the past 48 hours in Kathmandu and Biratnagar, repectively, for alleged activities supporting Nepal's current pro-democracy movement. Their arrests bring to 26 the number of journalists taken into custody in connection with the movement for the return of multi-party system begun on February 18, a spokesman for the Nepal Journalists Association (NJA) said.

Officially, at least 12 people have lost their lives since February as police opened fire on pro-democracy demonstrators, hundreds more have been injured by shots and beatings and more than 3,000 have been arrested. But banned party sources claimed at least 30 people have been killed, 150 injured and 8,000 arrested, of whom 2,000 had been released by Friday.

Nepali Congress leaders Ganesh Man Singh, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai and Girija Prasad Koirala have been under house arrest since February 17, while senior Nepal Communist Party leaders, including Sahana Pradhan, Man Mohan Adhikari, Bharat Mohan Adhikari, Tulsi Lal Amatya and Bishnu Bahadur Manandhar have been arrested shortly before or since February 18.

Since the protest movement was launched, the government of Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha has been facing serious difficulties leading to the resignation of an assistant minister a member of the national Panchayat (parliament), political observers here said.

Earlier Friday, Indian activists led by the Communist Party of India picketed the Raxaul transit point, 210 kilometres (120 miles) south of here, stopping all traffic across the Indian border, reports said. The picket was in place between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in support of the Nepalese protest movement, with Indian activists shouting slogans against the panchayat system, a Nepalese official said.

Instability Paralyzes Kingdom

OW1403124890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1217 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 14 KYODO—Cities in Nepal came to a virtual halt Wednesday in the wake of continued political instability in the Kingdom.

The closure, called for by politicians demanding that a ban on political parties be lifted, was peaceful in the capital city of Kathmandu, barring a few violent incidents in which public buses were damaged. There was a heavy deployment of riot police in all busy streets. Most markets, schools and colleges remained closed, and few taxis remained on the roads.

Bhaktapur and Patan, two adjoining cities to Kathmandu, also remained mostly closed all day Wednesday.

In Janakpur, about 200 kilometers southeast of Kathmandu, one person was injured by gunfire when a supporter of the present partyless system opened fire on pro-democracy demonstrators Wednesday morning, reports reaching here said. There was no official confirmation of the firing.

There were reports of markets being closed and traffic coming to a halt in Biratnagar, Dharan, Birgunj, Narayanghat, Janakpur and Butwal—all cities in the southern plains of the Kingdom.

Arrests were made countrywide, according to the reports.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Bhutto Addresses Kashmir Council

BK1303161190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has urged India to respect the sentiments of Kashmiris, honor its international commitments, stop repression against innocent people and accept their demand for the right to self-determination. Ms. Benazir Bhutto was addressing the joint session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly in Muzaffarabad this afternoon.

The prime minister said Pakistan is ready for talks with India on the Kashmir issue under the UN resolutions and the Simla Agreement. She said that although the Simla Agreement was reached when the country was in difficulty, it also recognized Kashmir as disputed territory. The then-president of Pakistan, martyr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, had said at that time that Pakistan would not compromise on the right to self-determination for the Kashmiri people. She added that her government will also not compromise on the right of self-determination for 12 million Kashmiris.

The prime minister urged India to allow observers from the United Nations and the Islamic Conference Organization to visit occupied Jammu and Kashmir to see for themselves the grave situation there. She said India should give Kashmiris the right to decide their own future. She added that if this right is not given to them, valiant Kashmiris would achieve the right by themselves and no gun or tank can stop them because the greatest power is the people's power.

The prime minister said that Pakistan has always extended the hand of friendship and cooperation toward India and wants to live with India with honor and dignity. At the same time our Armed Forces are ready to defend the motherland, and the people of Pakistan will fulfill their moral and religious obligations regarding Kashmiris, the prime minister declared.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the movement in occupied Kashmir was started by the people there and Pakistan is in no way involved. On the other hand, India has expelled foreign journalists from the region to hide its repression.

The prime minister said Pakistan has briefed world leaders through representatives on developments in Kashmir and these leaders are now expressing concern over Indian repression against Kashmiris and condemning it. India is now isolated and has failed to misdirect world opinion on the issue.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the entire nation has expressed confidence in her government's policy on the Kashmir issue and her government would meet the expectations of the people of Pakistan and Kashmir. The prime minister declared that the whole world and the blessings of God are with us on the Kashmir issue. She hoped that victory will, God willing, be with the Kashmiri people.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto announced the setting up of a prime minister's fund for Kashmiris to which the Pakistani Government would give 100 million rupees. She appealed to the people to donate liberally to the fund. The prime minister also announced 30 million rupees for the Azad Kashmir annual development fund. This sum will be in addition to the 10 million rupees she had announced earlier in the Azad Kashmir Council session.

Welcoming Ms. Benazir Bhutto, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan thanked her for addressing the joint session of Azad Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly and the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council. He also referred to the sacrifices made by the people of Kashmir to gain freedom.

The opposition leader of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly, retired Major General Mohammad Hayat Khan, while welcoming the prime minister, commended her long struggle for the restoration of democracy and said her visit has boosted the morale of the people of Kashmir and will have a positive impact on the struggle for freedom.

Earlier, the house offered prayers for the salvation of souls of the martyrs of occupied Kashmir.

Bhutto Comments on Afghan Coup Attempt

BK1403115690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has called for bold initiative from all sides for a peaceful political settlement of the Afghanistan problem, and said Pakistan is in touch with its friends in this connection. She was addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon.

The prime minister said the coup attempt in Kabul had vindicated Pakistan's stand that the Najibullah regime did not represent the people of Afghanistan and that even his die-hard supporters had become frustrated with the continuing deadlock. This was proved by the fact that one of the leading members of the regime had tried to overthrow Mr. Najibullah who was seen as a major obstacle to a quick resolution of the Afghan issue. Mr. Najibullah has emerged politically much weaker and his armed forces stand divided and decimated. Even he himself had to leave the presidential palace and sought refuge in an embassy. The fact that the coup leader, General Shahnawaz Tanay, happened to be from the Khalq faction of the ruling Afghan clique highlighted that basic differences in the ruling circles [words indistinct] cracking up.

10 Dead in Action Against 'Iranian Dissidents'

BK1403023490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, the law enforcement agencies continued their operation against Iranian dissidents in Turbat District yesterday. The death toll in the encounter has reportedly risen to 10. The law enforcement agencies arrested 27 opponents of the Iranian Government and captured their positions. Five Iranian dissidents are said to have been killed in the operation.

Sri Lanka

Indian Troops Vacate Trincomalee 13 Mar

BK1303151090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1451 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Colombo, March 13 (AFP)—Indian troops Tuesday [13 March] vacated Trincomalee, the last of the Sri Lankan towns in which they were deployed three years ago to stamp out Tamil separatism, diplomats said.

An unspecified number of soldiers in battle fatigues moved out of the eastern port town into the harbour area as part of India's promise to withdraw all its troops from Sri Lanka by March 31.

A spokesman for the Indian High Commission (Embassy) here said that an Indian Army contingent also sailed for home, but did not specify how many were still in the Trincomalee harbour.

With this, almost all the estimated 52,000 Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority northeast under a July 1987 bilateral pact have returned home.

India has lost more than 1,100 soldiers in Sri Lanka since October 1987 in its attempt to force the strongest Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), to disarm.

LTTE Move Into Trincomalee

BK1403070590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0639 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Colombo, March 14 (AFP)—Tamil rebels have moved into Trincomalee after Indian troops, deployed three years ago to crush Tamil separatism, quit the Sri Lankan port town, Tamil sources said Wednesday [14 March].

Guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) moved into the eastern town in jeeps and pick-up vans hours after Indian soldiers moved into the harbour area Tuesday on their way home, the sources here said.

The LTTE militants, some of whom were armed, immediately took over the deserted offices of three rival Tamil groups whose cadres have fled Trincomalee to escape the wrath of the militarily powerful Tigers.

"The Tigers are keeping a low profile and are mostly confined to the buildings they have occupied," said a Tamil source, basing his information on a contact in the town 257 kilometers (160 miles) from here.

An LTTE spokesman here said: "People are happy. They gave us a warm welcome. We are consolidating our position." [passage omitted]